

**DEPLOYMENT PRACTICES OF APF, NEPAL AND SSB
ALONG NEPAL-INDIA BORDER**



A Thesis

**Submitted to APF Command and Staff College,
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,
Tribhuvan University,
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Master's Degree in
Security, Development and Peace Studies**

Submitted by

BISHAL SILWAL

Ninth Batch (080-082)

Roll No: 123740042

TU Regd. No: 7-1-256-13-97

**APF Command and Staff College
Sanogaucharan, Kathmandu, Nepal**

April, 2025

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DECLARATION

I, **BISHAL SILWAL** hereby declare that the thesis entitled "**DEPLOYMENT PRACTICES OF APF, NEPAL AND SSB ALONG NEPAL-INDIA BORDER**", submitted to the Armed Police Force Command and Staff College, is entirely my original work prepared under the guidance of my supervisor.

I have made due acknowledgements to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources in course of preparing this thesis. The result of this thesis has not been presented or submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree or of any other purposes. I assure that no part of the content of this thesis has been published in any form before. I shall be solely responsible if any evidence is found against my thesis paper. This thesis is being submitted APF Command and Staff College, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, in Partial Fulfillment of the requirements for Master Degree in Security, Development and Peace Studies

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This thesis entitled "**DEPLOYMENT PRACTICES OF APF, NEPAL AND SSB ALONG NEPAL-INDIA BORDER**" was prepared by Mr. **BISHAL SILWAL** under my supervision. I, hereby, recommend it in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the "**DEGREE OF MASTER OF SECURITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE STUDIES**" for final examination.

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LETTER OF APPROVAL

This thesis, entitled "**DEPLOYMENT PRACTICES OF APF, NEPAL AND SSB ALONG NEPAL-INDIA BORDER**" submitted by **BISHAL SILWAL** to the APF Command and Staff College, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a MASTER'S DEGREE IN SECURITY, DEVELOPMENT, AND PEACE STUDIES, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Evaluation Committee.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am deeply grateful to my supervisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tikaram Gautam, for his invaluable guidance and inspiration throughout this study. I also extend my sincere gratitude to Prof. Dr. Rameshraj Kunwar for his valuable suggestions and insights, which significantly contributed to this thesis.

Furthermore, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Commandant of APF Command and Staff College, Deputy Inspector General Anjani Kumar Pokharel, and Chief Instructor, Superintendent Yadav Bk, for their support and encouragement. My gratitude also goes to the Academic Coordinator, Superintendent Suresh Sapkota, the Directing Staffs of APF Command and Staff College, and all Faculty members at Master in Security Development Peace Studies. Their valuable instruction, supervision, constructive and creative suggestions, and close observation were instrumental in shaping this paper. Their willingness to dedicate time from their demanding schedules guided my research, helped crystallize my ideas, and ensured the timely completion of this study.

I am indebted to all senior and junior officers, other ranks, the library management and administration team of APF Command and Staff College, and the respected lecturers and officers of APF, Nepal Headquarters. Their diverse assistance and provision of a conducive study environment were essential to my work. I am equally grateful to the residents and APF, Nepal personnel of Parsa for their remarkable cooperation and participation during the field visit to Parsa district.

Finally, I would like to thank all my colleagues from the APF Command and Staff Course, as well as everyone who provided direct and indirect support for this thesis. I am also profoundly thankful to my family for their firm support throughout this research.

ABSTRACT

This research provides an in-depth analysis of the deployment practices of Armed Police Force (APF), Nepal and *Sashastra Seema Bal* (SSB), India along Nepal-India border, exploring their operational strengths, challenges, and potential for improvement. The Nepal-India border, characterized by its open nature and socio-economic interdependence, facilitates trade and cultural exchange but also exposes the significant security challenges such as cross-border crime, human trafficking, and smuggling. APF, Nepal and SSB are responsible for managing these challenges through distinct operational strategies based on their resources, mandates, and local conditions. The primary objective of this study was to compare deployment strategies, command structures, and challenges encountered by APF, Nepal and SSB, highlighting both similarities and differences between the two forces. Using a qualitative research approach, the study employed Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with security personnel and local residents, and an analysis of policy documents, government reports, and academic literature. This approach provided valuable insights into strategies and operational challenges faced by both forces in securing the border. The findings reveal that SSB benefits from a larger workforce, advanced technology, and intensive surveillance, while APF, Nepal faces resource constraints and focuses on community-based intelligence gathering, relying on local networks for information. Despite these differences, both forces face challenges such as limited resources, technology, and insufficient coordination, although joint patrols and intelligence-sharing efforts have led to increased bilateral cooperation, real-time coordination remains inadequate, hindering their ability to respond effectively to emerging security threats. In conclusion, the research recommends improving technological capabilities, enhancing legal frameworks, and strengthening coordination between APF, Nepal and SSB. Establishing dedicated intelligence-sharing platforms, increasing border outposts (BOPs), and integrating advanced surveillance technologies are crucial for effective border security management. Strengthening bilateral cooperation and infrastructure development will be key to improving operational efficiency and regional stability. By addressing these challenges, both the APF and SSB can enhance their operational efficiency and contribute to regional stability.

Keywords: APF, Nepal, border security, deployment practice, intelligence sharing SSB.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AIG	Additional Inspector General
AHTU	Anti-Human Trafficking Units
APF	Armed Police Force
AR	Assam Rifles
ASI	Assistance Sub-Inspector
BADP	Border Area Development Program
BIT	Border Interaction Team
BSD	Border Security Department
BOP	Border Out Post
BSF	Border Security. Force
CAPF	Central Armed Police Forces
CISF	Central Industrial Security Force
CRPF	Central Reserve Police Force
Cr.Pc	Criminal Procedure Code
CSIS	Center for Strategic and International Studies
DG	Director General
DIG	Deputy Inspector General
DSP	Deputy Superintendent
FHQs	Force Headquarters
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FOB	Forward Observation Base
FTR HQs	Frontier Headquarters

GoI	Government of India
GoN	Government of Nepal
HQs	Headquarters
IG	Inspector General
IPS	Indian Police Services
ITBP	Indo Tibetan Border Police
KII	Key Informant Interview
KYA	Know Your Area
LAC	Line of Actual Control
LOC	Line of Control
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
NA	Nepal Army
NDPS	Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic substance
NDRF	National Disaster Response Force
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NP	Nepal Police
NID	National Investigation Department
RRT	Rescue & Relief Teams
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SAT	Small Action Teams
SHQs	Sector Headquarters
SP	Superintendent of Police
SSB	Sashastra Seema Bal
SSP	Senior Superintendent of Police

CHAPTER I

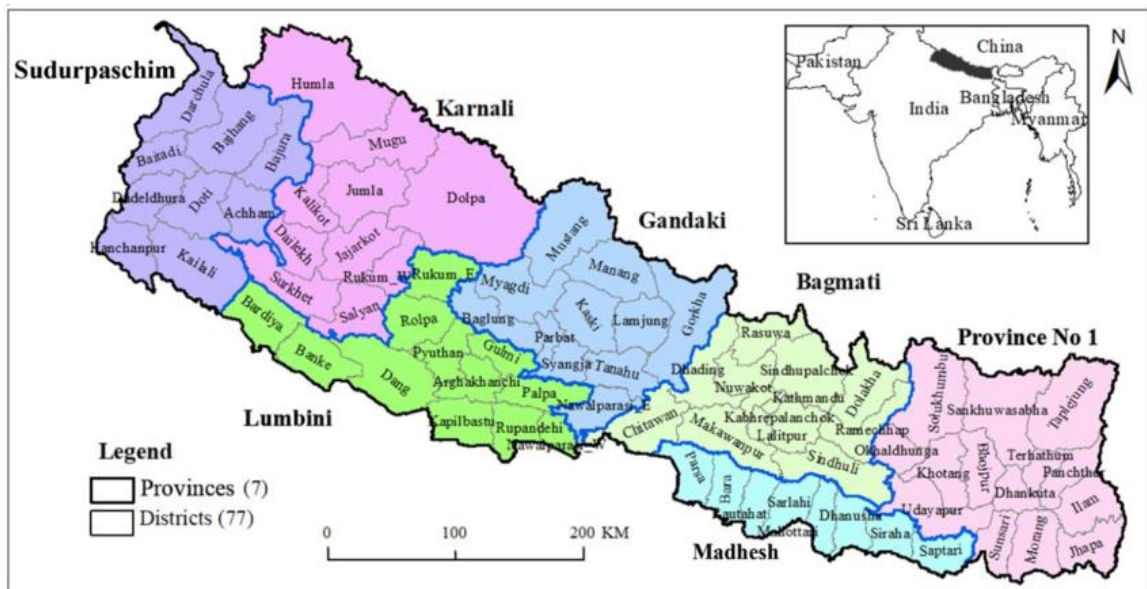
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Nepal as a landlocked country, is defined by its unique borders. It is bounded to the north by China and to the east, west, and south by India, two enormous countries. It is bordered by China 1414 km and India 1880 km. The land border of Nepal and India is 1,240 kilometers long, while the river border is the remaining 640 kilometers. While Nepal and India share an open border system, Nepal and China share a restricted border system (Shrestha, 2003). This geographical positioning and border dynamics significantly influence Nepal's geopolitical and economic landscape.

Figure 1.1

Map of Nepal Showing Seven Provinces and 77 Districts



Source: Department of Survey, Nepal (2025)

Understanding the historical evolution of Nepal's borders is crucial for comprehending its present-day challenges. Jha (2007) states that Nepal's frontiers have been empty and unsecured for many years, with inadequate efforts from the central government to build border security infrastructure. The official demarcation of the Nepal-India border occurred in December 1816, followed by subsequent modifications in 1860, 1864, and 1875. A

scientific study and delineation of the border were conducted between 1926 and 1927 (Kanskar, 2001). This historical context of fluctuating border demarcations has contributed to ongoing challenges in managing Nepal's borders.

The unique geopolitical positioning of Nepal, sandwiched between two major powers, has shaped its international relations and domestic policies significantly. An open border between Nepal and India is stipulated in the July 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship. The Treaty stipulated that citizens of one nation would be granted "the same privileges on matters of residence, ownership of property, participation in trade and commerce, movement and other privileges of a similar nature" on the territory of the other nation, on a reciprocal basis (Kansakar, 2012). In this context, this open border has facilitated significant people-to-people exchange and economic integration between the two countries.

Open border policy between Nepal and India, while fostering cultural exchange and economic integration, presents significant challenges. Better understanding and interdependence have been made possible by open border, which has revealed many intimate relationship aspects between two countries' citizens (Warikoo, 2009). While an open border system promotes goodwill among bordering nations, terrorists, insurgents, criminals, and anarchists can also take advantage of it (Jha, 2007). Therefore, a multifaceted strategy that strikes a balance between the advantages of free mobility and strong security measures is needed for the efficient administration of this open border.

Adhikari (2019) underscored that the unique relationship between Nepal and India, which is defined by an open border and unrestricted movement of people. While this openness has fostered strong socio-cultural and economic ties, it has also created significant security challenges. The border has been exploited for illegal activities such as smuggling, trafficking, and the movement of criminals, raising concerns for both nations. Recognizing these threats, Nepal and India have acknowledged the need for effective border management. Despite its economic and social benefits, regulating the border is essential to maintaining security and stability for both countries.

Borders are fundamental in establishing a nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity, significantly impacting political, economic, and security dynamics. A border is a clearly defined line connecting two fixed points, marking the boundary between nations. It serves as both a political and geographical division that separates one country from another (Starr,

2006). International boundaries encompass all borders between two nations, whether on land, across rivers, lakes, seas, or oceans (Boggs, 1937). These borders shape interactions between neighboring states, influencing policies on trade, migration, and security.

According to Baral (2018), border management is a system that not only secures national boundaries but also facilitates the lawful movement of people and goods and encourages cultural, social, and economic exchange. International cooperation is crucial to achieving this, requiring mechanisms such as joint task forces, intelligence sharing, and coordinated patrols. Shared infrastructure development along the border further contributes to security and operational efficiency.

Effective border control requires a clear distinction between authorized and unauthorized crossings, supported by appropriate legislation and resource allocation. Additionally, successful border management depends on well-developed laws, policies, administrative frameworks, operational systems, and skilled personnel to address various challenges efficiently (Das, 2021). Thus, a comprehensive and adaptable border management strategy is crucial for safeguarding national interests and promoting international cooperation.

One essential component of a country's overall security policy is border security. According to Manjarrez (2015), border security is an essential part of the national security strategy. Secure borders are crucial for preserving stability and averting threats in a society that is becoming more linked (Ejotubu & Jude, 2021). The actions a nation takes to keep an eye on and control the flow of people, animals, and products across its borders are collectively referred to as border security. Instability, violence, and humanitarian crises can arise from ineffective border management and protection, which will ultimately have serious national and regional repercussions.

The governments of each country take the security of their international borders very seriously. Due to their significance in both trade and people mobility, borders and checkpoints are the most sensitive locations. Every nation's security, economic growth, and sense of national identity are said to depend on securing its borders against the unlawful flow of people, goods, weapons, and drugs while encouraging legitimate entry and departure (Baral & Pyakurel, 2015). This delicate balance between security and facilitation is crucial for maintaining national sovereignty and promoting international cooperation.

Bhardwaj (2020) mentioned that South Asia's international land borders into two types: intra-regional borders shared among South Asian Association for Regional

Cooperation(SAARC) nations and inter-regional borders with non-SAARC countries. As the largest country in the region, India has the longest intra-regional (9,975.7 km) and inter-regional (5,131 km) land borders. The India-Nepal border extends 1,751 km, connecting 20 districts across five Indian states with 26 districts in Nepal's six provinces. This open border enables cross-border movement and fosters strong socio-cultural ties but also presents challenges such as illegal trade, human trafficking, and territorial disputes.

Nepal's unique geographical location and socio-political context create specific challenges for its border security. Natural catastrophes, criminality, and bilateral problems with its neighbors have all been problems along the Nepali border. Both India and Nepal have border security forces in place. Stopping smuggling, stopping criminals from crossing the border, stopping the sale of counterfeit money, stopping the trafficking of girls, and stopping the flow of weapons and ammunition are the goals of security forces (K.C., 2019). These security measures are essential for maintaining stability in the border regions.

Regarding Nepal, until recently, no security guards were stationed along the border between Nepal and India. The escalation of the Maoist insurgency, which began in 1996, forced the Nepali government to reassess its border security strategy. Nepal proclaimed a state of emergency in 2001, prompting the deployment of 410 Nepal Army (NA) personnel to customs posts in the Tarai region on March 14, 2001. However, the primary objective of this deployment was to safeguard customs officials rather than to establish a dedicated border patrol Baral & Pyakurel (2015). This highlights the evolving nature of Nepal's security priorities in response to internal and external pressures.

The growing Maoist insurgency in Nepal posed a serious security threat that called for a review of current law enforcement capacities. It was impossible for the Nepal Police (NP) to subdue the Maoists. A variety of commissions were set up to offer a solution because the administration was hesitant to send in the army. A unique paramilitary police force was proposed by the Regmi Commission, one of them. The Armed Police Force, Nepal (APF, Nepal) was established as a result of this in 2001 (Shrestha, 2007). In order to handle the particular difficulties presented by the insurgency and strengthen border security, a specialist force was established, signaling a significant change in Nepal's internal security architecture.

Article 6, Sub-Article 1(g) of the APF Act 2001 mandates APF, Nepal to maintain security in the country's border areas. This legal provision highlights the APF, Nepal's crucial role

in safeguarding Nepal's territorial integrity and national interests. As a key component of Nepal's national security apparatus, the APF, Nepal serves as the first line of defense in border management. It plays a vital role in protecting sovereignty, preventing trans-border crimes, smuggling, and unauthorized entry or departure, while also contributing to revenue protection (APF, 2023).

The deployment of APF, Nepal marked a significant shift in Nepal's border security strategy. The government of Nepal ultimately made the decision on March 5, 2007, to send a special APF, Nepal wing to 20 districts in the Tarai. Keeping the border secure and stopping money leaks were the two main goals. 9,000 APF, Nepal members were spread over 22 *Seema SurakShya Karyalayas*, 48 Border Out Post (BOPs), and 25 temporary security stations along the borders between Nepal and China and India (APF, 2012). This deployment represented a concrete step towards strengthening Nepal's border management capabilities.

The security dynamics along the Nepal-India border are shaped by the strategic decisions of both nations. India has designated the *Shashastra Seema Bal* (SSB) as the primary border security force for the Nepal-India border. Established in 1963 after the Sino-Indian War, the SSB initially operated in various regions like North Bengal, and Ladakh. Its goal was to instill national identity and strengthen border populations through welfare programs and training. In January 2001, following the Group of Ministers' recommendations, the SSB became both a border guarding force and the lead intelligence agency for the Indo-Nepal border (Baral & Pyakurel, 2015).

SSB is headquartered in New Delhi and six frontier headquarters are at Ranikhet, Lucknow, Patna, Tezpur, Siliguri, Guwahati. It is spread out on Indo Nepal and Indo Bhutan borders across the states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. It is headed by an IPS officer. It is under the administrative control of MHA. It is also being deployed for Law and Order, Counter Insurgency Operations and Election Duties.

Bogati (2022) notes that despite their mandates, APF, Nepal and SSB encounter significant challenges in their deployment procedures. The open border complicates enforcement efforts, facilitating illegal activities that threaten security. Resource constraints, including inadequate infrastructure and personnel, further hinder their operational effectiveness.

Additionally, the socio-economic similarities between border populations blur authority boundaries, making enforcement more complex.

Both agencies have realized in recent years how crucial cooperation is to improving their operational capacities. To promote information exchange and cooperative efforts to prevent cross-border crime, regular coordination meetings have been instituted. The meeting emphasized the importance of better communication and prompt information sharing between the two organizations.

In this context, understanding the deployment practices of APF, Nepal, and SSB is crucial for maintaining national security. Their effective deployment prevents illegal activities, and analyzing their strategies identifies areas for improvement. Studying these practices also reveals operational readiness and the factors influencing deployment decisions. This knowledge enables policymakers to enhance border security and maintain public order.

This thesis aims to explore the deployment practices of the APF, Nepal, and SSB along the Nepal-India border, analyzing their effectiveness and challenges. By providing actionable insights, it seeks to foster enhanced bilateral cooperation. Examining existing practices will contribute to more effective strategies and better border security.

1.2 Statement of Problem

The effective deployment of security forces is crucial for safeguarding national borders, especially in regions like the Nepal-India border, which is shared by two large and strategically important countries. The APF, Nepal and SSB play a vital role in securing this border, but questions remain about the effectiveness of their deployment strategies. The first problem lies in understanding how both forces are deployed along the border, including the geographical coverage, operational roles, and coordination mechanisms between them (Baral & Pyakurel, 2015). Examining the deployment practices of the APF, Nepal and SSB is essential to assessing their overall efficacy in maintaining security and managing border-related challenges.

Secondly, it is important to investigate the similarities and differences in their deployment practices. While both forces are tasked with securing the border, their operational structures, methods, and resources may differ significantly. Identifying these differences could offer valuable insights into areas of potential improvement or collaboration (Gerstein et al., 2018).

Finally, the study seeks to propose potential alternatives to enhance the deployment practices of the APF, Nepal and SSB. Given the dynamic nature of cross-border issues, exploring new approaches to deployment can help address emerging challenges and improve border management (Das, 2021). However, the deployment practices in APF, Nepal and SSB and the effectiveness of their practices including challenges faced in maintaining border security is not discussed in any literature till now which is the problem of this research. By evaluating existing practices and suggesting alternatives, the research aims to strengthen the border security framework between Nepal and India.

1.3 Research Questions

This research seeks to explore the deployment practices of the APF, Nepal, and the SSB. It will analyze their similarities and differences to propose potential alternatives for enhancing their operational efficiency.

- a. How are APF, Nepal and SSB deployed in Nepal -India border?
- b. What are similarities and dissimilarities in deployment practices of APF, Nepal and SSB?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The primary objective of this thesis is to analyze deployment practices of APF, Nepal and SSB. The thesis aims to address the following questions:

- a. To analyze deployment strategies of APF, Nepal, and SSB along the Nepal-India border.
- b. To discuss similarities and dissimilarities in deployment practices of APF, Nepal and SSB.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The APF, Nepal, and SSB, India, both play crucial roles in maintaining peace and security along the Nepal-India border. By examining the deployment practices of both forces, this study will provide a detailed understanding of how each force contributes to border security, what operational challenges they face, and how they coordinate to address security threats.

Additionally, this research is significant in identifying the similarities and differences in the deployment strategies of the APF, Nepal and SSB. Understanding these differences can highlight gaps or areas of inefficiency in current practices, offering opportunities to improve collaboration and coordination between the two forces. With cross-border issues and security breaches becoming increasingly complex, assessing the effectiveness of deployment strategies is essential for improving overall border security.

Furthermore, by proposing potential alternatives to enhance the deployment practices of the APF, Nepal and SSB, the study aims to contribute to the development of more effective, adaptive, and collaborative security mechanisms. This can directly impact national security by suggesting improvements to mitigate emerging threats. Ultimately, this research provides a foundation for policy development and reform, guiding future efforts to strengthen Nepal-India border security and ensuring the safety and stability of both nations.

1.6 Limitation of the Study

The study has several limitations that may impact its scope and reliability.

- (a) Restricted access to operational data: Confidentiality concerns limit detailed analysis of border security.
- (b) Dynamic nature of border threats: Challenges in capturing real-time developments (e.g., smuggling, human trafficking, cybercrime) reduce the study's applicability to emerging risks.
- (c) Institutional and legal variations: Differences between Nepal and India complicate direct comparisons of APF, Nepal and SSB, potentially affecting findings.
- (d) Reliance on available literature: Existing studies may not comprehensively address all aspects of border security deployment.
- (e) Logistical constraints: Limited field access and logistical challenges hinder firsthand data collection and depth of analysis.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The Nepal-India border presents a unique geopolitical landscape. Characterized by its open nature, it fosters deep-rooted cultural and economic ties while simultaneously posing significant challenges to border security. This literature review explores into the deployment practices of the two primary security forces responsible for safeguarding this crucial frontier APF, Nepal and SSB. The deployment practices of the APF, Nepal and SSB are critical for maintaining security along the Nepal-India border. This literature review examines existing studies and reports on their operational frameworks, collaborative efforts, and challenges faced in security.

2.1 Theoretical Review

Traditional realist perspectives positioned the state as the primary actor in an anarchic international system, emphasizing its inherent drive for security and sovereignty. Within this framework, borders were viewed as critical instruments for self-preservation, reinforcing territorial integrity and controlling the movement of people and goods (Waltz, 1979). In contrast, liberal theories offered a more optimistic view, highlighting the potential for international cooperation and the role of institutions in effectively managing borders. This perspective emphasized the need to balance security concerns with the facilitation of legitimate cross-border flows to foster interdependence and mutual benefit (Keohane & Nye, 1977).

Moving beyond purely materialist considerations, constructivist approaches underscored the socially constructed nature of border security threats. This perspective emphasized the influence of shared norms, identities, and interactions in shaping state behavior and fostering either cooperation or conflict in the border security domain (Wendt, 1992). Complementing this, securitization theory provided a critical lens to analyze how specific border-related issues were framed as existential threats. This process could justify extraordinary measures and potentially lead to the prioritization of security concerns over fundamental rights and civil liberties (Buzan, Wæver, & de Wilde, 1998).

Das (2021) pointed out that borders are typically seen as the outer limits of a state, safeguarding the enclosed area by facilitating the movement of people, goods, and ideas, while simultaneously restricting harmful elements. Essentially, borders serve dual and sometimes conflicting purposes: they act as barriers to unwanted threats, such as capital, people, goods, services, and ideas that may harm the domestic population, while also functioning as pathways for legitimate cross-border socioeconomic and cultural exchanges. Gerstein et al. (2018), discussed border management as to the process by which nations regulate and secure their borders while ensuring the smooth flow of legal trade and travel. It involves balancing border security preventing unauthorized crossings with trade and travel facilitation, allowing the efficient movement of authorized individuals and goods. The importance of well-managed borders is increasingly recognized in a globalized world, where security and economic exchange are inextricably linked.

Shrestha (2003) discussed that border management encompasses the establishment of borders, ensuring strong and efficient security, enabling cross-border travel, and promoting trade and tourism. The primary responsibility of a state is to regulate its borders, as failure to do so undermines national security. This regulatory function is essential to a state's sovereignty, as it directly influences its ability to control its territory and safeguard its citizens from external threats.

Bhardwaj (2007) stressed that the primary objective of border management is to ensure state security, followed by maintaining interstate relations. This prioritization highlights the importance of national sovereignty and internal stability while recognizing the need for harmonious relations with neighboring countries. Effective border management strategies must, therefore, strike a balance between security requirements and diplomatic considerations to promote stability and cooperation.

Caparini and Marenin (2006) underscored that the evolving global security landscape has led to a reevaluation of traditional border management approaches. As safeguarding the lives and property of citizens has become a central concern in global security agendas, strategies to protect national borders must adapt to emerging threats. Effective border management is now considered crucial for ensuring both domestic safety and international stability. This shift emphasizes the need for more flexible and comprehensive border security strategies to address new and complex challenges.

Janparvar et al. (2013) stressed that globalization and the information age have increased the interdependence between nations, making open borders essential for pursuing national interests. However, this openness also introduces challenges that can undermine security and stability. Border management is crucial in striking a balance between the advantages of international cooperation and the need to safeguard domestic security. Achieving this balance requires strategic control over borders in physical, cyberspace, and perceptual realms. The goal is to leverage opportunities while minimizing potential risks. Effective border management is key to ensuring national security and stability in an interconnected global environment.

Harlon and Herbert (2019) emphasized that the concept of national security has evolved in response to changing global dynamics. As a critical component of national security, border security plays an essential role in safeguarding a country's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Over time, the focus on securing borders has expanded to address a range of challenges, from traditional threats to more complex global issues. This evolution reflects the shifting nature of security in an increasingly interconnected world.

Coyne (2015) discussed that border security has become a crucial element of national security policy, with an increasing focus on non-traditional security concerns. Issues like illegal migration, refugees, and terrorism have emerged as central topics in border security discussions. This shift highlights a broader understanding that contemporary security threats extend beyond traditional military or territorial matters. It emphasizes the necessity of addressing a wider array of challenges in today's complex security landscape.

According to Farzanegan & Markwardt (2020), border security systems are intended to safeguard the state and deal with issues that could affect national stability, such as drug trafficking, illegal migration, cultural globalization, and economic interdependence. This change emphasizes how crucial it is to create border security frameworks that meet both old-fashioned territorial concerns and the intricate, interrelated problems of the twenty-first century.

Widdowson and Holloway (2011) emphasized that effective border security requires an integrated approach, combining control and surveillance measures to regulate the movement of people, goods, and services across international borders. This approach also involves facilitating lawful travel and trade through designated entry and exit points while maintaining national security. The dual responsibility of border security calls for a balance

between regulatory measures, such as physical inspections, document verification, screening, and scanning, and minimizing disruption to legitimate trade and travel. Ultimately, the goal is to protect borders while ensuring the seamless flow of cross-border interactions.

According to the Center for Strategic and International Studies (2010), effective border security relies on well-trained border police, modern equipment, and a robust bureaucratic framework. Trained personnel improve surveillance and response capabilities, while advanced equipment aids in detecting illegal activities and streamlining border management. A compatible bureaucratic system is essential for seamless coordination between security agencies. Without these critical components, border security remains susceptible to threats such as smuggling and illegal migration.

Sapkota (2009) highlighted that Nepal's border security significantly influences its international relations with China and India. The author stressed the importance of adhering to Nepal's border security strategy to ensure the nation's overall security. In today's rapidly advancing technological landscape, while technology offers benefits to individuals, it can also be exploited by terrorist groups to cause harm. Consequently, border security must be maintained from physical, ethical, and professional standpoints to effectively manage and counter such threats.

2.2 Empirical Review

Poudyal (2023) examined that Nepal's pursuit of secure and peaceful borders through boundary diplomacy, shaped by its geostrategic position between India and China. While Nepal has resolved several border issues with its neighbors, some disputes remain unresolved. To effectively manage its borders, Nepal must align with international legal standards and best practices in border management. This study revisits the significance of Nepal's boundary diplomacy within the framework of international border regimes, with a particular focus on boundary delineation along the Nepal-India and Nepal-China frontiers. It explores Nepal's border issues and diplomatic engagements with both neighboring countries in the context of international border governance.

Dhungel (2023) examined that the impact of demographic changes on Nepal's national security, with a particular emphasis on border security. The study analyzes the perspectives of local-level elected representatives regarding the causes and consequences of these

demographic shifts on border security governance. Findings indicate that factors such as internal migration and cross-border movements contribute to challenges like illegal border crossings, human trafficking, and smuggling. These demographic changes are primarily driven by the pursuit of better economic opportunities and higher education, increasing pressure on border security mechanisms.

Prasad (2022) explored that the significance of border security in the context of national security between India and Nepal. The paper analyzes both governmental and non-governmental institutional mechanisms involved in securing the border and examines their roles in addressing border challenges and ensuring protection for both nations. Despite the presence of border checkpoints, the India-Nepal border remains open, allowing people to cross at any point. While this open-border system promotes friendly relations, mutual understanding, and cultural ties, it also presents security risks, including potential misuse by terrorists and criminals.

Kansakar (2012) emphasized the unique relationship between Nepal and India, characterized by an open border, unrestricted cross-border movement, shared culture and customs, and a long-standing people-to-people connection. Nepal is bordered by five Indian states to the east, west, and south, covering over 1850 kilometers. The southern portion of the boundary runs along the plains, while the western section follows the Mahakali River in the west with Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Bihar. The hilly terrain is located in Sikkim, West Bengal, and along the Mechi River in the east. This extensive border presents both opportunities and challenges, necessitating effective management and cooperation between the two nations.

Kumar (2013) highlighted that the deep-rooted people-to-people ties between India and Nepal, shaped by geographical, religious, cultural, and ethnic connections, particularly in the Terai region. The 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship reinforced these ties by facilitating an open border that allows the free movement of people and goods. This openness has fostered a shared sense of belonging, especially in border communities. Given their strong historical and cultural connections, the open border serves as a vital link that offers opportunities for both nations.

Baral (2018) examined that the historical development of the Nepal-India international boundary, focusing on the processes of boundary delineation and demarcation. The paper explores issues related to border water disputes, encroachments, and challenges arising

from river-based boundaries. It provides an analysis of both physical and artificial boundary disputes and their implications for bilateral relations. Additionally, the author discusses the positive and negative effects of the open border system between Nepal and India.

Bahadur (2019) explored that the benefits and challenges of the Nepal-India open border, emphasizing its role in employment, free mobility, and sociocultural integration. While the border has historically fostered strong cross-border ties, it has also been exploited by smugglers, terrorists, and criminal networks, posing security threats. The study highlights issues such as human trafficking, counterfeit currency circulation, and the movement of illicit materials. Given Nepal's geostrategic position, the writer argues that completely sealing the border is impractical, but effective regulation through mutual cooperation is necessary.

Pulami (2023) stated that the process of globalization has introduced various challenges, making border governance an essential concept for states. Effective border governance requires a collaborative approach to border management. This paper explores the concept of border governance in the context of the open Nepal-India border and emphasizes the need to transition from traditional border management to a more integrated system of governance. The author argues that this shift is crucial for addressing the complexities of the open border, enabling better management of the flow of people, goods, and capital, while also addressing security concerns and other challenges.

Baral and Pyakurel (2013) highlighted the role of border police from both nations in securing the border, with additional security personnel involved both formally and informally. India has deployed the SSB along the entire Nepal-India border, positioning armed posts approximately three kilometers apart. In contrast, Nepal has stationed the APF, Nepal with posts situated between fifteen and twenty kilometers apart. Both forces share common objectives, including combating smuggling, preventing the movement of criminals, curbing human trafficking, stopping the circulation of counterfeit money and weapons, and ensuring the security of customs checkpoints.

Naik (2014) highlighted that the Nepal-India border is distinctive globally due to its unique "open border" policy. Despite having designated checkpoints, citizens from both countries can move freely across the entire border. This unrestricted movement strengthens socio-cultural connections and enhances economic exchange. However, such openness also

introduces significant security challenges. The absence of stringent border controls requires the adoption of alternative strategies to effectively manage potential threats.

Pattanaik (1998) discussed the open border policy between India and Nepal and its possibilities, issues, and challenges. The repercussions of cross-border population mobility are complex and wide-ranging. Cultural continuity is facilitated by open borders, which enable nations with comparable socio-religious beliefs to engage with one another. But the open border also increases vulnerability since it can give terrorists, traffickers, and criminals a safe haven where they can operate unhindered. Because of the dual nature of the open border, a delicate balance must be found between addressing security concerns and encouraging cross-cultural engagement.

Pandey (2019) examined that international border management systems, comparing the open-border arrangement between Nepal and India with the integrated border management system of Schengen countries. Border management is presented as a complex issue involving challenges such as trafficking, illegal migration, and terrorism. The research aims to identify border management practices and challenges in both the Nepal-India and Schengen contexts. The author concludes by emphasizing the significance of border management for national security and the necessity of adopting different approaches based on the specific conditions of each country.

Bhatta (2024) discussed that Nepal's current domestic and foreign affairs, emphasizing the country's national security concerns, particularly in light of recent border disputes with India. The article underscores the strategic significance of borderland communities, arguing that their unique political position as citizens plays a crucial role in maintaining state sovereignty. Despite their importance, these communities are often overlooked in discussions on Nepal-India border issues. The author highlights the potential of borderland populations as key partners in national security and border protection.

Shrestha et al. (2020) discussed that the border issues between Nepal and India. The paper defines a border as a demarcation to designate a territory united by a common political and legal system. Border issues involve disputes between two countries about imaginative boundary lines. Reasons for these disputes include possession of natural resources, increasing population, and political, cultural, and religious factors. Nepal has historically been recognized as the land between the Himalayas in the north and the plains in the south.

Das (2008) explored that complexities of the open border between India and Nepal. While the open border has facilitated strong social, cultural, and economic ties, it has also led to security concerns such as illegal activities, cross-border terrorism, and smuggling. The paper argues against closing the border, as doing so would have significant social and economic costs for both countries. Instead, it proposes a "middle path" of regulating the border through better management, improved infrastructure, and coordinated security measures.

Khadka (2024) examined that cross-border illegal migration, with a particular focus on the Nepal-India border and the vulnerabilities associated with the open border system. The study uses the case of Rohingya refugees to analyze patterns of illegal migration into Nepal and the resulting security challenges. The unrestricted movement of people across Nepal's southern border raises serious security concerns, including the risk of criminal and terrorist infiltration. Illegal migration has emerged as both a national and international concern, posing a significant challenge for Nepal.

Upreti (2021) highlighted that key challenges in border management, such as geographical difficulties, socio-economic similarities, operational constraints, and inadequate border laws. These issues are further intensified by smuggling, cross-border crime, and the open border with India, posing serious security threats. Addressing these challenges necessitates a collaborative approach among stakeholders to strengthen border security. Enhancing border security requires well-defined policies, infrastructure development, technological innovations, and efficient human resource management.

Aryal (2022) emphasized that the APF, Nepal, was established to safeguard people's lives, property, and liberty by upholding peace and order. As a key national security entity, it plays a crucial role in securing international borders. This study explores the connection between good governance and border management through a descriptive approach. The findings highlight that the APF plays a vital role in curbing trans-border crimes, thereby directly contributing to good governance in Nepal.

Jha (2022) observed that the security challenges along the Indo-Nepal border, highlighting issues such as smuggling, human trafficking, and militant infiltration. The open border system, established by the Sugauli Treaty, has fostered strong relations but also created vulnerabilities. Despite the deployment of security forces like the SSB and APF, Nepal these issues persist due to local political and religious influences. Jha argues that border

militarization and closure, as seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, did not effectively address cross-border crimes. He emphasizes the need for advanced technologies and enhanced cooperation between security agencies and local communities to improve border security.

Bogati (2022) emphasized the crucial role security agencies play in border protection. Both overt and covert security forces closely monitor the border, with the responsibility of safeguarding the nation's borders falling under the jurisdiction of security agencies in all administrations. While security forces are central to this task, local government institutions, communities, and residents of border areas also contribute significantly to border protection. In the case of Nepal, the first line of defense was provided by the NA, followed by the deployment of APF, Nepal. Additionally, NP forces are stationed in areas along the border with India to enhance security.

Kharel (2021) stressed that effective border management necessitates seamless coordination between security forces from Nepal and India to address emerging threats. While both countries have stationed security personnel along their borders to mitigate risks, communication between them remains largely verbal or nonverbal. This lack of structured communication mechanisms can result in misunderstandings and inefficiencies during joint border security operations.

2.3 Policy Review

The involvement of APF, Nepal, in border security is rooted in its legal framework, primarily the APF Act, 2001, which mandates the APF, Nepal to "guard the border of Nepal" as one of its key responsibilities (Clause G, Article 6). This highlights the APF, Nepal's critical role in safeguarding national borders, preventing cross-border crimes, and maintaining territorial integrity. The APF, Nepal Regulation, 2015, provides operational guidelines for the force, covering areas such as force management, discipline, promotions, and service conditions, ensuring efficiency and adherence to protocols.

Similarly, SSB as defined by the SSB Act, 2007, is tasked with border security and preventing trans-border crimes. The Act grants SSB personnel authority to arrest, search, and seize within 15 kilometers of the border, enhancing law enforcement. The SSB Rules, 2009, further clarify the force's functions, including securing border areas, preventing

illegal activities, regulating unauthorized crossings, and engaging in community-building through civic action programs.

Upreti (2021) studied that primary indicator of border security lies in the deployment of security forces, where the presence of force establishes trust at the border and acts as a deterrent, a key principle of "deterrence." The APF, Nepal is the country's specialized force for border security, while the NP also operates in border regions, supporting the APF, Nepal's efforts. Additionally, the NA has established border security directorates for information gathering. Alongside border security, the National Investigation Department (NID) plays a crucial role in collecting, consolidating, and analyzing data related to national security.

K.C. (2019) emphasized on necessity for Nepal to enhance its border security in response to evolving security challenges. This requires the government to develop comprehensive strategic plans and be ready to implement them effectively. Key measures include investing in advanced infrastructure and technology, as well as establishing robust border policies and procedures. Although the APF, Nepal has been deployed at the border, the lack of clear border laws has made it difficult to enforce regulations, particularly concerning border development and cross-border violations.

Forester (2014) examined that the role of non-state actors in the security of the Indo-Nepal border, focusing on their impact on border relations and security threats. The research identifies criminal organizations, terrorist networks, and human traffickers as key nonstate actors influencing border security. It compares Nepal and India's border situation with case studies of the U.S.-Mexico and Poland-Germany borders to highlight security challenges and countermeasures. The study finds that border security depends not only on government policies but also on the ability to regulate non-state actors. It recommends enhanced cooperation, law enforcement reforms, and targeted security measures to address border vulnerabilities.

2.4 Research Gaps

The existing literature on border security primarily focuses on the general roles of security forces and their functions in maintaining border integrity, but there is a gap in specific studies addressing the deployment strategies of APF, Nepal, and SSB along the Nepal-India border. While there are some works that mention border security forces'

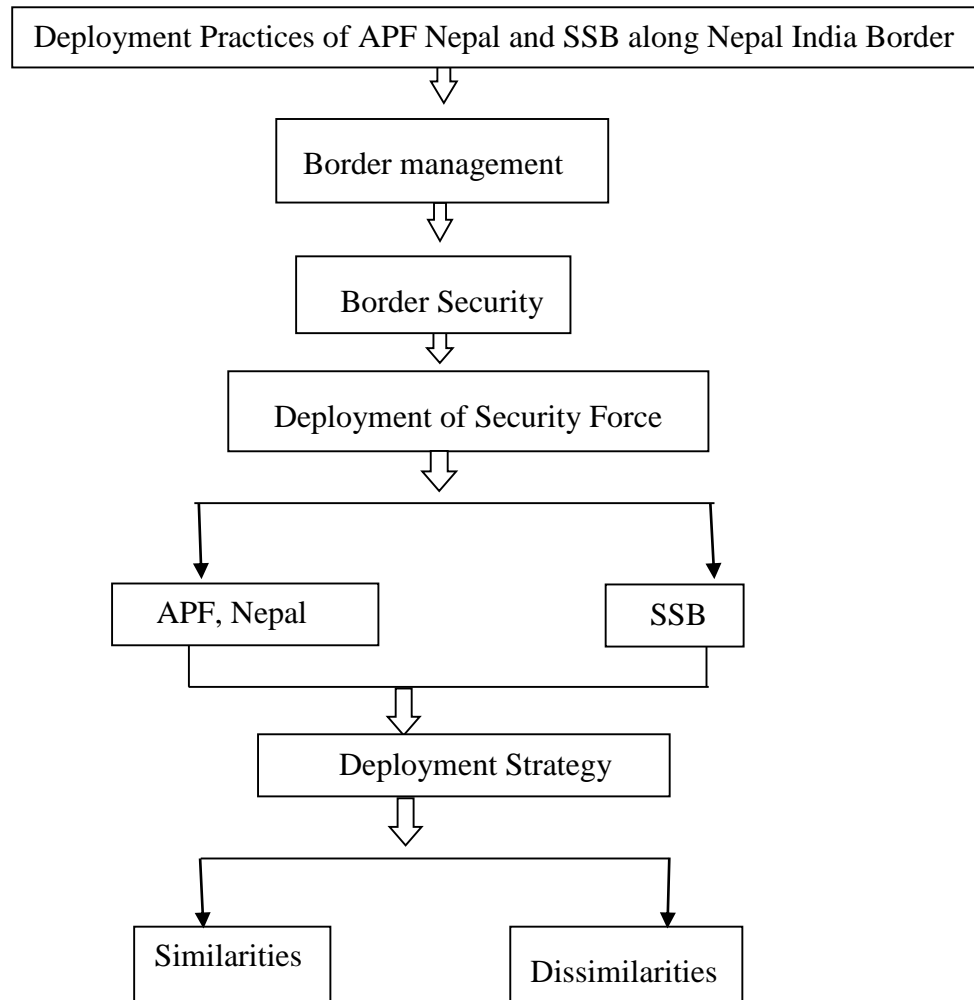
contributions, there is limited research examining the detailed deployment practices of these two forces. A critical gap also exists in the comparison of similarities and differences between the APF, Nepal and SSB, particularly regarding their operational strategies, resource allocation, and coordination mechanisms. Moreover, despite ongoing discussions on border security, few studies have explored alternative strategies to enhance the effectiveness of the deployment practices of both forces, including technological integration, capacity building, and cross-border cooperation. This research aims to fill these gaps by providing a comprehensive analysis of the deployment strategies of the APF, Nepal and SSB, comparing their practices, and proposing potential improvements to strengthen border security along Nepal-India border.

2.5 Conceptual Framework

The deployment of APF, Nepal and SSB along the Nepal-India border is a crucial aspect of border security. This study examines their deployment practices by analyzing key dimensions such as border security, border management, operational processes, and inter-agency coordination.

The framework identifies deployment of security forces as the central theme, with two primary comparative components: APF, Nepal, and SSB. It explores the similarities and differences between their deployment strategies. A critical aspect of the framework is border security. It also includes border management, addressing policies, technological integration, and coordination mechanisms between the two forces.

By structuring the analysis within these dimensions, the study aims to bridge the research gaps identified in existing literature, providing a comparative evaluation of APF, Nepal and SSB deployment strategies. Furthermore, it seeks to propose alternative approaches to enhance border security effectiveness, including capacity building, use of modern technology, and improved bilateral coordination.

Figure 2.1*Conceptual Framework*

Source: Developed and Modified by Researcher based on Das (2021)

CHAPTER III

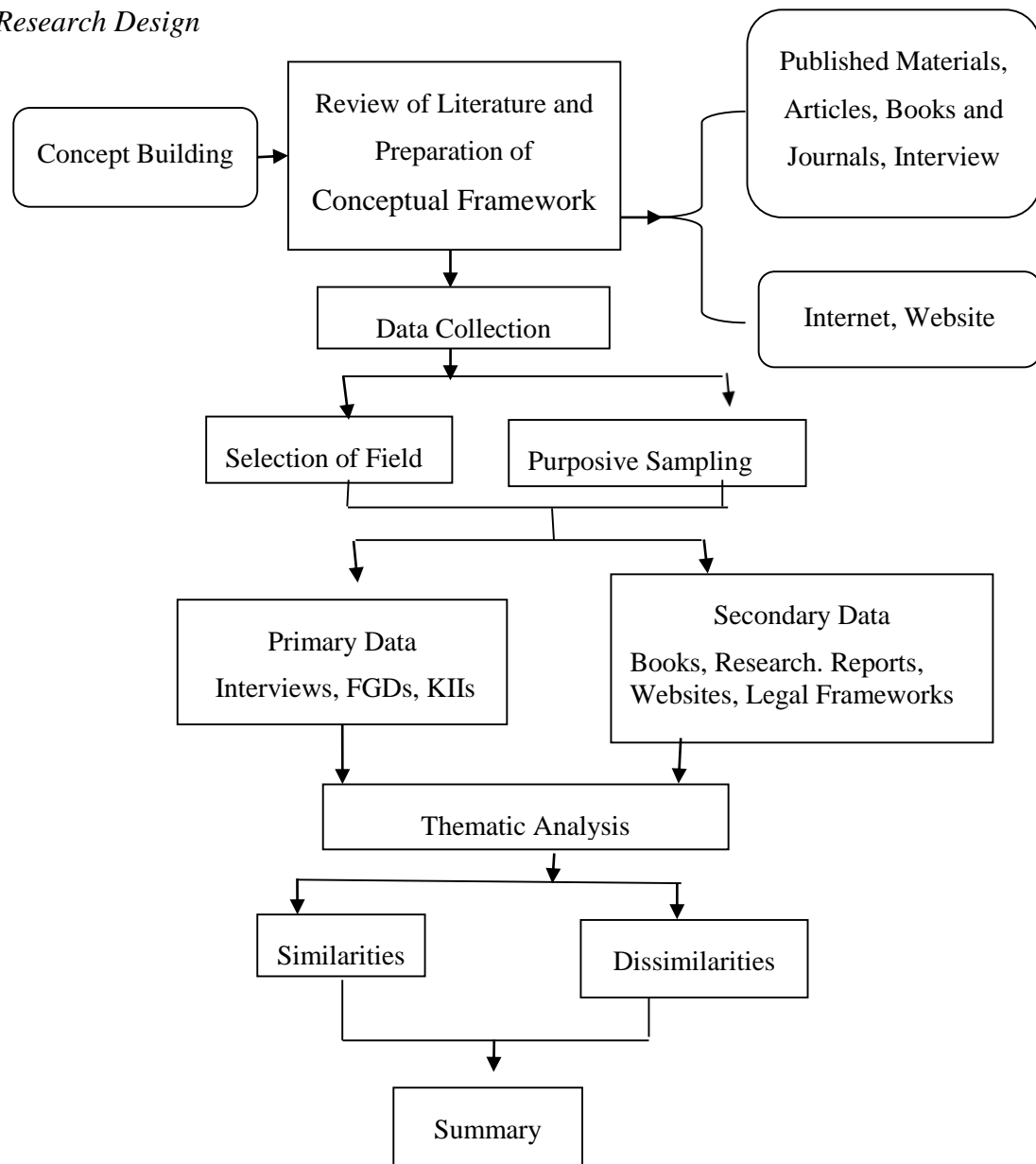
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methodology outlines a systematic framework for investigating the deployment patterns and practices of the SSB and the APF, Nepal, along the Nepal-India border. This study employs qualitative methods, including interviews and document analysis, to gather in-depth data on operational strategies, challenges, and practices. The use of interviews allows for capturing firsthand perspectives from key stakeholders, including security personnel and policymakers, while document analysis provides a thorough review of existing policies, reports, and relevant literature.

3.1 Research Design

A research design is a plan that describes the study's goals, methods for gathering data, and the analysis process. It ensures that the research is conducted systematically and is aligned with the study's objectives, improving the consistency and effectiveness of the findings (Creswell & Creswell, 2018).

This study adopted a qualitative research design, enabling a detailed exploration and understanding of the deployment practices of APF, Nepal, and SSB along the Nepal-India border. A descriptive and analytical approach was applied to examine the issue in depth. Both primary and secondary data were used for the analysis. Primary data were gathered through Interview, Key Informant Interviews, (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), while secondary data were obtained from various reports and published materials, including government documents, academic research, and media reports.

Figure 3.1*Research Design*

Source: Developed and Modified by Researcher based on (Creswell, 2018)

3.2 Study Area

The study was conducted along the Nepal-India border, where both the APF, Nepal, and SSB play pivotal roles in maintaining security. The research specifically focused on high-risk zones, border posts, and patrol routes where both forces are actively deployed. Data were collected in Parsa District from January 6 to 11, 2025, and in Kathmandu District

from January 12 to 15, 2025. The study included 19 interviews 7 KIIs and 2 FGDs with officers from APF, Nepal, and SSB, as well as local border residents of Parsa district. Participants were selected from leadership, operational command, legal oversight, and border security domains to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced in border management. The inclusion of SSB officers facilitated a cross-border perspective, allowing for a comparative analysis of security practices and coordination between Nepal and India. The diversity in participants and locations ensured a broad spectrum of experiences, from high-level policy formulation to operational execution in remote border areas.

3.3 Nature and Source of Data

This study employed both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods to provide a comprehensive analysis of the deployment practices of APF, Nepal, and SSB along the Nepal-India border. Primary data were gathered from APF, Nepal officers, SSB officers, local border inhabitants and concerned stakeholders. These qualitative inputs provided detailed insights into the deployment practices and the interactions between the forces and local communities. The research relied on a variety of secondary sources, including government reports from both Nepal and India, which provided official insights into the roles and responsibilities of both forces. Academic publications offered theoretical context and historical perspectives, while media reports provided contemporary insights into border incidents and challenges. International documents were also analyzed to benchmark the deployment practices against global standards in border management. The combination of these sources ensured a well-rounded and comprehensive understanding of the APF and SSB's deployment practices

3.4 Sampling. Tools and Techniques of data collection

Primary data were gathered through a combination of interviews, KIIs, and FGDs. Interviews were conducted across various sectors to obtain empirical insights. KIIs were carried out with officers from both APF, Nepal, and SSB, while FGDs were organized with local border communities and APF, Nepal personnel to collect diverse perspectives on deployment practices. For further details, please refer to Appendix A.

Purposive sampling was employed to selectively identify participants with substantial knowledge or involvement in border security, ensuring the relevance and reliability of the collected data. Additionally, field observations were conducted at border posts, patrol routes, and high-risk zones to gain firsthand insights into operational challenges and logistical conditions. Secondary data were drawn from government reports, academic publications, media articles, and international documents, offering official perspectives, theoretical frameworks, and comparative benchmarks for analyzing the deployment practices of both forces.

3.5 Data Processing, Analysis and Presentation

To achieve the study's objectives, both qualitative and quantitative data from primary and secondary sources are analyzed using analytical and descriptive methods. The data are systematically organized to ensure clarity and coherence in interpretation. Various analytical tools are employed to identify patterns, trends, and key findings relevant to the research. Tables and figures are used to enhance data presentation, making complex information more accessible and comprehensible. This approach ensured a detailed and comprehensive understanding of the deployment practices of APF, Nepal, and SSB along the Nepal-India border.

3.6 Ethical Consideration

The study adhered to strict ethical standards to ensure academic integrity and maintain the confidentiality of participants. The research followed the guidelines set forth by the APA 7th edition to ensure neutrality and objectivity. Participants were fully informed about the study's purpose and procedures, and their voluntary consent was obtained in writing. Confidentiality was maintained throughout the research, ensuring that the identities of participants were protected. All data collected were securely stored and used solely for research purposes. These ethical considerations helped to ensure the credibility and reliability of the study while upholding the rights and privacy of the participants.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Findings

This chapter presents the key findings derived from the research on the deployment practices of APF, Nepal, and SSB along the Nepal-India border. These findings are structured around the core research objectives and critical questions that guide this study. The analysis is supported by Interviews, KIIs, FGDs, and secondary sources to provide a comprehensive understanding of their deployment practices, operational similarities and differences, and potential improvements in deployment strategies. This triangulation of data sources ensures a comprehensive understanding of the complex dynamics at play along this border region.

The study explores how APF, Nepal, and SSB are deployed along the Nepal-India border, examining their jurisdiction, organizational structure, patrolling mechanisms, and resource allocation. It identifies the similarities and differences in their deployment practices, including command structures, intelligence-sharing mechanisms, community engagement strategies, and technological adoption in border security. Furthermore, the study proposes potential alternatives to enhance their operational effectiveness and coordination.

Findings indicate that both forces maintain a strong border presence through networks of BOPs and joint patrols, aiming to prevent cross-border crimes. However, key differences emerge in terms of jurisdictional mandates, resource availability, and deployment density. While APF, Nepal, integrates disaster response and internal security responsibilities into its deployment strategy, SSB focuses primarily on border security and community engagement programs. These variations influence their overall effectiveness in border management.

Additionally, through KIIs and FGDs, stakeholders from both forces and local communities provided insights into operational challenges and opportunities for improvement. Key recommendations include enhancing cross-border intelligence-sharing mechanisms, increasing joint training programs, and adopting advanced surveillance technologies to strengthen border security. The chapter further discusses these findings in

detail, addressing each research question systematically to provide a holistic understanding of deployment practices and areas for enhancement.

4.1.1 Deployment Structure and Strategies of APF, Nepal

APF, Nepal, is a federal force established on January 22, 2001, with the primary objective of ensuring national security and maintaining law and order. Operating under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), APF, Nepal, plays a crucial role in border security, disaster response, counterterrorism, and controlling organized crime. A key focus of its operations is safeguarding Nepal's international borders with India and China, preventing cross-border crimes, and supporting national security efforts.

a. Role of APF, Nepal in Border Security

APF, Nepal, plays a crucial role in maintaining national security, including safeguarding the country's international borders. Established under the APF Act, 2001, the force is mandated to uphold law and order, protect life and property, and ensure national sovereignty. Among its core responsibilities are controlling armed conflicts, insurgencies, terrorism, and riots, as well as engaging in disaster response, hostage rescue, and high-risk security operations. Additionally, the APF, Nepal is entrusted with securing Nepal's borders, assisting the NA in countering external threats, and preventing cross-border crimes such as smuggling and human trafficking (APF Act, 2001).

The APF, Nepal Act, 2001, defines the duties and powers of armed police personnel to ensure effective execution of their responsibilities. The Act empowers armed police officers to search any house, place, or vehicle where they suspect prohibited items or criminal activity, in accordance with prevailing laws.

The APF Act, 2001, explicitly mandates the force to guard Nepal's borders, as outlined in Clause (G) of Article 6. This legal provision underscores the institution's crucial role in safeguarding national borders, preventing cross-border crimes, and ensuring territorial integrity. In alignment with this mandate, APF, Nepal was officially deployed for border security on March 5, 2007, following a cabinet decision on January 14, 2008. This led to the establishment of the Border Security Department (BSD) within the APF HQs, tasked with monitoring and patrolling international borders and customs checkpoints. The BSD was later integrated into the Operations and Border Security Department (O & BSD) in

2018, which was headed by an AIG. However, on November 1, 2022, the Government of Nepal (GoN) reestablished the BSD as a separate entity, emphasizing its strategic role in monitoring and securing the borders through BNs, COYs, and BOPs.

Table 4.1

Structural Strength of APF, Nepal on Border Security

Name of Office	Total Unit	Personnel by Organogram	Deployment of APF Personnel	Remarks
Brigade HQs	7	172		
Battalion(BN) HQs	30	618	18540	
Company(COY) HQs (Independent)	15	160	2400	
COY HQs (Dependent)	3	114	-	Deployed From BN HQs
BOP	254	35	-	„
Base	1		-	„
Total	310		20,940	

Source: APF, Nepal HQs, Border Security Department (2025)

Table 4.1 presents the structural deployment of APF, Nepal personnel along Nepal's northern and southern borders. As the primary agency mandated for border security, APF, Nepal is responsible for safeguarding no man's land, preventing cross-border crimes, and ensuring the security of people and territory.

Empirical findings from KII highlight the significant impact of APF, Nepal's deployment in mitigating transnational crimes along Nepal's borders. As stated by KII-2, "The deployment of APF, Nepal along the border has significantly reduced incidents of smuggling, human trafficking, and other illegal activities" -(KII, 21/02/2025). These findings emphasize the importance of maintaining a robust and well-coordinated presence along the border to deter criminal activities.

b. Deployment Structure of APF, Nepal

The deployment structure of the APF, Nepal, is designed to ensure effective command, coordination, and execution of security operations. It operates under a structured hierarchy,

with specialized departments managing various functions such as border security, human resource and operation. This structured deployment ensures administrative efficiency, professional development, and operational effectiveness, allowing APF, Nepal to fulfill its mandated security responsibilities across the country.

Table 4.2

Deployment Structure of APF, Nepal

S.N.	Units	Number
1.	APF, Nepal HQs	1
2.	National Armed Police Academy	1
3.	APF Command and Staff College	1
4.	Brigade HQs	8
5.	Nepal APF, Hospital (Incl regional hospital)	3
6.	Sports and Physical School	1
7.	Training School	11
8.	Battalions	44
9.	Companies	27
10.	Support and Service company	8
11.	Schools	3
12.	BOPs	254

Source: APF, Nepal HQs, Human Resource Department (2025)

As highlighted in Table 4.2, APF, Nepal operates under a centralized command structure with one HQs, eight brigade HQs, and 44 BNs, ensuring a well-coordinated and responsive deployment mechanism. The National Armed Police Academy, Command and Staff College, and 11 training schools play a crucial role in professional development and operational readiness. Furthermore, 254 BOPs serve as frontline security units, contributing to the enforcement of border security and countering transnational crimes.

Findings from KII-1, a high-ranking APF, Nepal officer, emphasized that "The current deployment structure facilitates a rapid response to security threats across the country. The brigade and battalion framework establishes a clear chain of command, ensuring seamless coordination during security operations"-(KII, 21/02/2025). This structured approach

enhances operational efficiency, command hierarchy, and response mechanisms in critical situations.

Similarly, FGD-2 revealed that "The presence of APF, Nepal has significantly improved the sense of security and reduced cross-border smuggling. However, better communication and coordination with the local population are essential to enhance operational effectiveness"- (FGD, 09/01/2025). This stresses the importance of community engagement and intelligence-sharing in strengthening border security measures.

Therefore, while APF, Nepal's current deployment structure plays a pivotal role in national security, continuous improvements in infrastructure development, inter-agency collaboration, and specialized training programs remain crucial for enhancing overall operational effectiveness

c. Command Structure in APF, Nepal Deployment

The command in the APF, Nepal is designed to ensure efficient leadership and smooth execution of its security and operational responsibilities. It operates under a well-defined hierarchical system, with each level of command assigned specific roles and jurisdictions. This structure enables effective coordination, decision-making, and delegation of tasks across the force, ensuring operational efficiency at all levels.

In this context, participants of FGD-1 highlighted that

Command structure of APF, Nepal, is highly centralized and hierarchical, ensuring efficient decision-making and accountability in deployments. The chain of command extends from the APF, Nepal HQs to the field-level units, with clear roles assigned to each operational level. Senior officers oversee the strategic planning and coordination of deployments, while subordinate units are tasked with executing operational directives at border posts, patrol routes, and other sensitive areas.

(FGD, 09/01/2025)

This structured approach enables the APF, Nepal to respond effectively to border security challenges, disaster management, and other duties within its mandate. Table 4.3 illustrates the command hierarchy within the APF, Nepal.

Table 4.3*Command Structure of APF, Nepal*

S.N.	Formation	Commander
1.	APF, Nepal HQs	Inspector General -(IG)
2.	Department	Additional Inspector General -(AIG)
3.	Brigade	Deputy Inspector General-(DIG)
4.	Battalion	Superintendent-(SP)
5.	Company	Deputy Superintendent-(DSP)
6.	BOP	DSP /Inspector/Sub-Inspector-(SI)
7.	FOB	SI/Assistance Sub-Inspector-(ASI)

Source: APF, Nepal HQs, Border Security Department (2025)

As highlighted in Table 4.3 the command structure of the APF, Nepal, is designed to maintain hierarchy and ensure operational effectiveness. The APF, Nepal HQs is led by IG, while departments are managed by AIGs. Brigades are commanded by DIGs, and BNs are led by SPs. COYs fall under DSPs, while BOPs are managed by DSPs, Inspectors, or SI. FOBs are overseen by SI or ASI.

Findings from KII-1 emphasized that -"The hierarchical command structure enhances operational efficiency by ensuring clear decision-making and accountability at each level"- (KII, 21/02/2025). Similarly, KII-2 highlighted that "The command chain ensures that field officers can effectively respond to security threats and coordinate with local law enforcement agencies"-(KII, 21/02/2025).

Thus, while the current command structure ensures hierarchical efficiency and operational effectiveness, continuous improvement in inter-agency collaboration, digital communication systems, and leadership training is essential for further strengthening the APF, Nepal's security operations.

d. Regularity Provision in APF, Nepal Deployment

The regulatory framework governing the APF, Nepal, is established through constitution provision, legal provisions, administrative policies, and oversight mechanisms that ensure its effective functioning. This legal foundation provides the APF, Nepal with the necessary

authority to conduct operations, coordinate with national and international security agencies, and safeguard Nepal's territorial integrity.

The Constitution of Nepal (2015) serves as the legal foundation for security agencies, including the APF, Nepal. Article 268 (1) of the Constitution explicitly mandates that the federal government shall maintain the APF, Nepal as a key security apparatus. Additionally, Clause (4) of Article 268 states that all structural, functional, and administrative aspects of the APF, Nepal, shall be determined in accordance with federal law (Constitution of Nepal, 2015). These provisions solidify the APF, Nepal's institutional legitimacy and ensure its structured operation within the national security framework.

The APF Act, 2001, further defines the mandates, jurisdiction, and command structure of the force. This Act assigns the force a wide range of responsibilities, including countering armed conflicts, rebellions, terrorism, riots, and serious crimes such as hostage crises. Specifically, Clause (G) of Article 6 of the APF Act, 2001 explicitly mandates the APF, Nepal, to "guard the border of Nepal," underscoring its critical role in preventing cross-border crimes and ensuring territorial integrity (APF Act, 2001).

Complementing the APF Act, 2001, the APF Regulation, 2015 provides detailed guidelines on force management, discipline, promotions, and service conditions. These regulations ensure that the APF, Nepal, adheres to structured operational protocols, maintains organizational efficiency, and upholds discipline within its ranks (APF Regulation, 2015).

Furthermore, the Border Security Management Action Plan-2013, developed by the APF, Nepal, aims to effectively deploy dedicated border security units to control cross-border illegal activities and maintain peace and security in border regions (Bogati, 2023). This action plan outlines the roles and responsibilities of various APF, Nepal units deployed in border regions, including Brigade HQs, Border Security BNs, COYs, and BOPs. KII-3 emphasized the importance of a clear legal framework, stating

APF, Nepal operates under the APF Act, 2001, which outlines its responsibilities in national security, border management, and disaster response. However, the current legal framework proves inadequate in addressing cross-border crimes, as it overlooks critical issues such as coordination gaps between agencies and operational inconsistencies. The absence of a unified, comprehensive regulatory system results in inefficiencies in border security operations. To effectively counter evolving security threats and border-related crimes, it is essential to continuously

refine and strengthen the existing laws and protocols to ensure better coordination, response, and overall operational effectiveness.

(KII, 20/02/2025)

This observation highlights the importance of continuous legal and policy reforms to enhance the APF, Nepal's operational effectiveness.

The APF Act, 2001, complemented by ministerial oversight and internal operational policies, establishes a robust governance mechanism. However, as highlighted in KII, continuous review and enhancement of these regulations are essential to address coordination gaps, improve operational protocols, and strengthen inter-agency collaboration.

e. Good Practice Being Adopted by APF, Nepal

APF, Nepal plays a pivotal role in maintaining the country's internal security, particularly at its borders. APF, Nepal has adopted several good practices that reflect its commitment to operational efficiency and community welfare. These initiatives have not only strengthened Nepal's border security but have also enhanced the quality of life for local communities. This section outlines key good practices implemented by APF, Nepal, supported by insights from Key Informant Interviews KIIs and FGDs.

i. Monitoring Mechanism

APF, Nepal, has established a structured monitoring mechanism to oversee border security operations despite lacking advanced technological surveillance tools. The Central Monitoring system, led by senior officials from the BSD, ensures accountability and addresses misconduct at the national level. At the regional level, a dedicated team, chaired by a senior officer from Brigade, supervises operational conduct within border brigades. Similarly, at the local level, district monitoring teams, headed by officers from district, focus on personnel discipline and effectiveness in border security offices.

KII-2 noted that "this system enhances accountability at all levels, ensuring that border security personnel adhere to operational guidelines and ethical standards"-(KII, 21/02/2025). These multi-tiered mechanisms aim to enhance supervision, ensure professional conduct, and strengthen border security efforts across Nepal, contributing to improved operational efficiency and overall security along the borders.

ii. Formation of Border Facilitation committee

The Border Facilitation Committee is a significant initiative aimed at enhancing coordination and cooperation between Nepal and India, particularly in areas concerning border security, trade, and movement of people. Established with the objective of resolving border-related issues and ensuring smooth operations along the shared border, the BFC brings together representatives from various government agencies, security forces, and local authorities.

Participants in FGD-2 emphasized that "the inclusion of local representatives has improved transparency and trust between border residents and security forces"- (FGD, 09/01/2025). These efforts have fostered greater collaboration between local communities and security forces, improving border management and ensuring effective solutions to security concerns and trade issues.

Table 4.4

Border Facilitation Committee

S.N.	Particulars	Designation
1	Ward Chairperson	Chairman
2	Any one Ward Member	Member
3	Representative of Social Organization	Member
4	Representative of Local Youth Club	Member
5	Representative of Civil Society	Member
6	Representative of Journalist	Member
7	Representative of Industry and Chamber of Commerce	Member
8	Teacher, Representative	Member
9	Local In charge, NP	Member
10	Officer Representative, BN/Coy	Member
11	BOP In Charge	Member-Secretary

Source: APF, Nepal HQs Border Security Department (2025)

Table 4.4 outlines the composition and roles of the Border Facilitation Committee, which includes representatives from various sectors of society, including local governance, civil

society, and law enforcement. This committee plays a vital role in ensuring community participation in security efforts, fostering a collaborative environment where residents and authorities work together to address security concerns.

iii. APF, Nepal with Border Inhabitants

APF, Nepal maintains close collaboration with border inhabitants to enhance security along the Nepal-India border. The force engages with local communities through awareness programs, workshops, and trust-building initiatives. These efforts help gather vital intelligence and foster cooperation in preventing cross-border crimes. By involving border residents, APF, Nepal strengthens community support and promotes collective security.

Table 4.5

Activities of APF, Nepal with Border Inhabitants

S.N.	Programs	Organizer	Target Group	Duration
1	Awareness Class (Border Crime)	Coy/BOP	School/Community	Monthly
2	Awareness Class (Disaster Mgmt.)	Coy/BOP	School/Community	Monthly
3	Border Pillar Monitoring	Facilitation Committee	All Stakeholder	Twice in Month
4	Interaction Program	Coy/BOP	People/ Represent	Monthly
5	Interaction Program	Brigade/BN	Ward Chairman	-
6	Border Area Development Program (BADP)	BN/ /BOP	Local People	Yearly
7	Health Campaign	BN	Local People	Yearly
8	Self-Employment Training	BN	Local People	Yearly
9	Social Work	BN	Local People	Necessity
10	Initiation on Deep Boring	BN	Local People	Necessity

Source: APF, Nepal HQs Border Security Department (2025)

Table 4.5 outlines programs aimed at raising awareness and fostering community involvement in security. Monthly classes on border crime and disaster management educate residents, while the Border Pillar Monitoring initiative ensures border integrity. Interaction programs build trust, and initiatives like the Border Area Development Program and health campaigns enhance local livelihoods, indirectly strengthening national security. FGD-2 noted that "such initiatives have helped local communities become more vigilant against illegal activities and strengthened cooperation between residents and security forces"- (FGD, 09/01/2025). Additionally, KII-4 emphasized that "engagement programs have improved the quality of intelligence received from border inhabitants, making APF, Nepal's operations more effective"- (KII, 08/01/2025). These efforts have enhanced both local participation and intelligence sharing, improving overall border security and fostering stronger collaboration between communities and security forces

iv. Deployment of Female Personnel

The deployment of female personnel at border checkpoints has been a significant step toward gender-sensitive security procedures. APF, Nepal has deployed female personnel from very beginning. Female officers handle frisking and security checks for women travelers, ensuring respect and dignity. Additionally, they engage with local women, encouraging them to report security concerns. FGD-2 participants emphasized that "this initiative has significantly improved trust between security forces and border communities, particularly in cases involving human trafficking and gender-based violence"- (FGD, 09/01/2025). This initiative has enhanced trust between law enforcement and border communities, setting a benchmark for inclusive and efficient border security while addressing sensitive issues effectively.

v. Technological Integration for Surveillance

APF, Nepal has increasingly adopted modern technology for surveillance and border monitoring. The use of advanced surveillance equipment, including drones, CCTV cameras, has significantly enhanced the force's ability to monitor vast stretches of the border. KII-5 stated that "the integration of technology has allowed APF, Nepal, to monitor remote border areas more effectively"- (KII, 09/01/2025). This technological integration enables real-time monitoring of border areas, improving response times to potential security breaches and enhancing overall border security operations.

vi. Intelligence-Based Patrolling

APF, Nepal has incorporated intelligence-led operations to enhance its border security practices. By gathering real-time intelligence through various sources, including local informants and surveillance technologies, APF, Nepal, Nepal can deploy forces strategically to high-risk areas. KII-4 emphasized that "intelligence-based patrolling has been particularly effective in tackling smuggling and human trafficking activities"- (KII, 12/01/2025). This proactive approach helps in anticipating and preventing illegal activities such as human trafficking and smuggling.

vii. Disaster Response and Humanitarian Assistance

APF, Nepal plays a crucial role in disaster response and humanitarian assistance, particularly during natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, in border areas. This dual responsibility of providing both security and humanitarian aid helps foster trust and cooperation between APF, Nepal and the local border communities (Aryal, 2022). KII-5 emphasized that "APF, Nepal's role in disaster response has strengthened its relationship with border communities, reinforcing trust and cooperation" -(KII, 12/01/2025). Through these efforts, APF, Nepal builds a solid foundation of mutual support, ensuring effective collaboration in maintaining security and responding to emergencies.

viii. Use of K-9 Units

APF, Nepal utilizes trained K-9 units (sniffer dogs) at border checkpoints to detect illegal substances, explosives, and contraband. KII-4 highlighted that "K-9 units have proven highly effective in intercepting drug trafficking and other illicit activities" -(KII, 08/01/2025). These units play a crucial role in preventing the smuggling of drugs and other illegal items across the border. Their presence significantly enhances border security by providing an additional layer of detection and interception

ix. Capacity Building and Training

APF, Nepal places significant emphasis on continuous training and capacity building for its personnel to enhance their skills in border management and security operations. Training programs cover a wide range of areas, including counter-insurgency, anti-smuggling operations, community policing, and disaster response (Gerstein et al., 2018).

KII-2 emphasized that "continuous training ensures that APF, Nepal personnel remain well-equipped to handle evolving security threats" -(KII, 21/01/2025). This ensures that APF, Nepal personnel are well-prepared to handle the complex security challenges of the Nepal-India border.

4.1.2 Deployment Structure and Strategies of SSB

SSB was established on December 20, 1963, under the SSB Act, 2007, with the primary mission of ensuring border security. Headquartered in New Delhi, India, it has six regional offices located in Ranikhet, Lucknow, Patna, Tezpur, Siliguri, and Guwahati. Its jurisdiction covers the borders of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, and Arunachal Pradesh,

The SSB operates under a hierarchical command structure led by an IPS officer, with oversight from MoHA. Its deployment strategies prioritize securing the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders, preventing trans-border crimes, and fostering trust with local communities through civic action programs. Regional offices and field units are strategically placed to enhance operational efficiency and border management

a. Role of SSB in Border Security

As outlined in the SSB Act of 2007 and the SSB Rules of 2009, its primary responsibilities include safeguarding the security of designated border areas and fostering a sense of security among border communities. Additionally, the SSB is tasked with preventing trans-border crimes, smuggling, and other illegal activities, as well as regulating unauthorized entry into or exit from Indian territory. The force also undertakes civic action programs within its area of responsibility and performs any additional duties assigned by the Central Government. Furthermore, the SSB is actively deployed for maintaining law and order, conducting counter-insurgency operations, and providing security during elections.

In order to accomplish these goals, the Indian Government has granted SSB employees a number of powers. The provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr. PC) 1973 provide the SSB with extensive powers to arrest without a warrant, conduct searches, seize offensive weapons, and prevent cognizable offenses. The Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1985 grants them authority to enter, search, seize, and arrest without a warrant in narcotics-related offenses. Additionally, the Indian Arms

Act, 1959 empowers the SSB to demand arms licenses, search vessels and vehicles, and seize prohibited arms in disturbed areas. The Indian Passport Act, 1967, and the Customs Act, 1962, further enhance their powers to arrest, search, seize, and inspect individuals and goods related to border security and customs enforcement.

Together, these legal provisions ensure the SSB's operational effectiveness while holding them accountable to the rule of law. They provide the necessary authority to execute border security operations efficiently, particularly in preventing cross-border crimes and protecting national integrity. These powers must be used within a 15-kilometer radius in the states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, and Arunachal Pradesh, as well as in any area where the SSB operates and along the boundary between India and Nepal and Bhutan.

KII-6 articulated the core function as encompassing multifaceted responsibilities, stating, -"SSB primarily focuses on border surveillance, intelligence gathering, curbing smuggling, counter-insurgency operations, and ensuring law enforcement along the border"-(KII, 03/02/2025). This emphasis on intelligence gathering underscores the proactive approach employed by the SSB, aiming to preemptively address potential security threats.

The findings reveal that the SSB plays a pivotal role in ensuring border security and fostering safety among border communities. Its responsibilities extend beyond traditional border guarding to include intelligence gathering, counter-insurgency operations, and enforcing legal provisions such as the Cr. PC, NDPS Act, and Indian Arms Act.

b. Deployment Structure of SSB

SSB operates under a hierarchical system, with leadership positions overseeing key areas such as operations, training, and administration. The structure ensures smooth coordination between various units, enabling the SSB to effectively manage its responsibilities along the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders. This framework promotes operational efficiency and quick response to security challenges. The deployment structure of the SSB is drawn in following table.

Table 4.6*Deployment Structure of SSB*

S.N.	Units	Number
1.	Force Headquarters(FHQs)	1
2.	Frontiers Headquarters(FTR, HQs)	6
3.	Sectors Headquarters(SHQs)	18
4.	Battalions Headquarters(BN HQs)	73
5.	Training Centers	13
7.	“G” School	1
8.	Telecom Training Center	1
9.	Hospitals	3
10.	Central Store Depot & Workshop (CSD&W)	4

Source: MoHA. (2022). Annual report 2021–22. Government of India.

As outlined in Table 4.6, the SSB's deployment structure starts with the FHQs, which oversees the entire force. Below the FHQs are six FTR HQs, each managing multiple SHQs. The SHQs, a total of 18, are responsible for overseeing the deployment and operations of SSB BNs along the borders. There are 73 BNs in total, comprising 55 operational BNs and 18 reserve BNs. Each BN is further divided into companies, BOPs, and border checkpoints, ensuring effective coverage and security across vast border areas.

KII-7, a senior SSB officer, emphasized the strategic rationale behind the hierarchical structure, stating, - "The layered command structure enables efficient resource allocation and rapid dissemination of orders. The FTR and Sector HQs provide crucial intermediate levels of command, ensuring effective oversight and coordination of battalion operations"- (KII, 05/02/2025). This well-structured deployment system is key to the SSB's success in securing India's borders and mitigating cross-border criminal activities.

c. Command Structure in SSB Deployment

The command structure in SSB is designed to ensure effective leadership and efficient coordination in border security operations. The command structure of the SSB is organized into a hierarchical system, as illustrated in Table 4.5, to ensure operational efficiency,

discipline, and effective decision-making. Each level of the structure is led by officers with clearly defined roles and responsibilities, enabling the force to maintain vigilance and respond swiftly to security challenges.

Table 4.7

Command Structure of SSB

S.N.	Formation	Commander
1.	Force Headquarters	Director-General (DG)
2.	Frontier Headquarters	Inspector General (IG)
3.	Sector Headquarters	Deputy Inspector General (DIG)
4.	Battalions	Commandant
5.	Companies	Deputy Commandant.
6.	BOPs	Sub-Inspectors(SI)
7.	Check post	Head Constable

Source: SSB Force HQs (2025)

As outlined in Table 4.7, the command structure of SSB is organized into a hierarchical system to ensure operational efficiency and discipline. At the top, the FHQs is led by DG. FTR HQs is overseen by an IG, while SHQs is commanded by a DIG. BN are led by Commandants, COYs by Assistant Commandants, and BOPs are managed by SI.

This hierarchical command structure ensures that leadership responsibilities are clearly defined at every level, promoting operational efficiency, discipline, and accountability. As noted by KII-10, "The SSB's command structure promotes discipline and operational efficiency, which are critical for addressing the dynamic challenges of border security" (KII, 10/01/2025). The systematic delegation of authority enables swift decision-making processes, which are essential in maintaining effective border security. KII-6 noted,

While the command structure offers clarity, it can occasionally result in delays in decision-making, particularly in situations demanding rapid responses at the BOP and COY levels. To enhance operational efficiency, there is a need to grant more autonomy at lower levels, enabling quicker decisions and more flexible responses to dynamic border security challenges.

(KII, 02/02/2025)

This highlights a potential tension between centralized control and the need for decentralized decision-making in dynamic border environments.

However, SSB's command structure is a well-organized hierarchical system that ensures effective leadership, operational efficiency, and seamless coordination across all levels of the force. This structure not only enhances the SSB's ability to address security challenges but also fosters discipline and accountability within the force.

d. Regularity Provision of SSB

The SSB operates under the MoHA, Government of India, and functions as a specialized border security force. The regulatory framework governing the SSB is outlined in the SSB Act, 2007 and SSB Rules, 2009, which define the force's structure, command hierarchy, deployment, and operational protocols. Additionally, various rules, policies, and oversight mechanisms regulate its operations, ensuring discipline, accountability, and adherence to national security mandates.

The SSB Act, 2007 serves as the primary legislation defining the constitution, authority, and functions of the force. According to Section 4 of the Act, the force is responsible for ensuring border security and preventing trans-border crimes. The general superintendence, direction, and control of the SSB are vested in the Central Government, with operational command delegated to the DG of the Force. The Act grants SSB personnel the authority to arrest, search, and seize in areas within 15 kilometers of the international border, aiding in law enforcement efforts (SSB Act, 2007).

The SSB Rules, 2009 further elaborate on the structure and functions of the force, including the chain of command, recruitment, training, and operational protocols. Rule 9 of the Rules, mandates SSB to secure border areas, prevent trans-border crimes and illegal activities, regulate unauthorized crossings, and build trust with local communities through civic action programs. Rule 10 establishes a hierarchical command structure for coordinated deployment and rapid response, with the Additional DG overseeing operations, IG managing regional command, DIG handling sector-level operations, and Commandants leading unit-level deployment (SSB Regulations, 2009).

The force also adheres to provisions from other laws, such as the Passport Act of 1967, the NDPS Act of 1985, the Criminal Procedure Code of 1973, and the Arms Act of 1959, in

addition to the SSB Act of 2007. The Indian government is also contemplating extending jurisdiction under the 1962 Customs Act.

The force functions under the administrative control of the MoHA, which formulates policies, oversees deployments, and ensures coordination with other security agencies. The MoHA also issues periodic guidelines for border management, intelligence gathering, and disaster response operations. To ensure discipline, efficiency, and operational effectiveness, the SSB has a well-structured regulatory system. The FHQs in New Delhi is the highest decision-making authority, headed by a DG. Below the FHQs, FTR HQs manage different regions, followed by Sector HQs and BNs at the operational level.

The SSB also has an internal vigilance mechanism to monitor personnel conduct, investigate misconduct, and ensure adherence to the code of conduct. The Human Resource and Training Department oversees recruitment, promotions, and training programs, ensuring that personnel are well-equipped for security challenges. Additionally, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs reviews the performance and budgetary allocations of the force, providing recommendations for policy improvements. KII-7, emphasized the importance of a comprehensive legal framework, stating,

SSB Act and Rules establish a strong foundation for border security operations. However, the evolving security landscape necessitates continuous refinement of regulatory mechanisms. Effective coordination with other agencies and adherence to international protocols are crucial for maintaining security. By enhancing operational strategies and adopting modern technologies, SSB can better address emerging threats, prevent transnational crimes, and strengthen overall border management along the Nepal-India border-.

(KII, 05/02/2025)

This reflects the need for ongoing review and adaptation of the regulatory framework to address evolving security challenges.

The regulatory mechanism of SSB ensures effective border security, law enforcement, and crime prevention along Nepal and Bhutan borders. Governed by the SSB Act, 2007, and other legal provisions, the force follows strict internal regulations and oversight mechanisms. Through legal mandates, internal vigilance, and coordination with other

security forces, the SSB continues to play a vital role in India's national security framework.

e. Good Practice Being Adopted by SSB

SSB adopts several good practices to enhance operational effectiveness. These include the formation of Small Action Teams (SATs) for swift action, Border Interaction Teams (BITs) for combating illegal activities, Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs), the use of advanced technology, and conducting seminars for awareness, all aimed at improving security, efficiency, and community engagement.

Participants in FGD-2 emphasized that "SSB's engagement with local communities and intelligence-driven border security measures have enhanced their effectiveness in managing security threats"-(KII, 05/02/2025). Similarly, KII-7 highlighted that "the use of modern technology and digital monitoring systems has significantly improved SSB's response capabilities in high-risk border zones" -(KII, 05/02/2025). This suggests that SSB's strategic practices and technological advancements have significantly enhanced its operational capabilities, especially in high-risk border areas (Gerstein et al., 2018).

i. Small Action Teams

SSB has deployed SATs to counter threats in Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) affected regions. Each SAT consists of at least one platoon, ensuring rapid and effective responses to insurgent activities. These teams conduct offensive and defensive operations in dense forests, serving as primary striking force against Naxal militants. They also provide critical backup support during security missions, enhancing operational success. According to insights from KII-8, "SATs have played a crucial role in neutralizing security threats in sensitive border areas, enabling better coordination with other law enforcement agencies"-(KII, 03/02/2025). Their swift action capability helps prevent extremist activities and strengthens law enforcement in high-risk areas.

ii. Border Interaction Teams

SSB has established Border Interaction Teams (BITs) along 25 high-risk routes prone to smuggling and cross-border crimes. Each BIT consists of six members, including female personnel, who operate undercover in civilian attire. These teams gather intelligence, engage with local communities, and address border security challenges discreetly. KII-7

noted that "BITs have improved real-time intelligence gathering and enhanced trust between local communities and border security forces" -(KII, 05/02/2025). Their specialized training in soft skills allows them to communicate effectively with border populations.

iii. Anti-Human Trafficking Units

To address human trafficking, SSB has established five Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) in vulnerable border regions, collaborating with state agencies and NGOs to rescue victims and dismantle trafficking networks. These units conduct intelligence-driven operations, raise awareness about trafficking risks, and provide rehabilitation support for rescued individuals to ensure their safe reintegration into society. KII-7 emphasized, "AHTUs have been instrumental in preventing human trafficking cases by proactively identifying traffickers and providing support for rescued victims" (KII, 11/01/2025). This initiative highlights SSB's proactive approach to combating human trafficking and protecting vulnerable populations.

iv. Seizure Incident Management System

SSB has implemented the Seizure Incident Management System (SIMS) to maintain real-time digital records of seizures and law enforcement actions. This system allows field units to log incidents instantly, ensuring data accuracy and accountability. SIMS provides senior officials with valuable insights into smuggling patterns and security breaches. The centralized database aids in tracking trends and strengthening enforcement measures. KII-7 emphasized that "digitalizing incident records through SIMS has strengthened enforcement measures and improved operational transparency"- (KII, 05/05/2025). By digitalizing record-keeping, SIMS enhances border management and operational transparency.

v. Rescue & Relief Teams

SSB has established 18 Rescue & Relief Teams (RRTs), each comprising 35 trained personnel. These teams are deployed in disaster-prone regions to provide emergency assistance during natural calamities. They specialize in search and rescue operations, medical aid, and relief distribution. RRTs coordinate with local authorities and agencies to ensure swift disaster response. KII-6 noted that "the presence of RRTs has significantly enhanced disaster response capabilities, ensuring rapid assistance to affected communities

along the border"- (KII, 11/01/2025). Their presence significantly enhances SSB's ability to handle humanitarian crises effectively.

vi. Use of Technology

SSB employs advanced technology such as XBIS scanners, Netra surveillance drones, body-worn cameras, and GPS devices for border security. CCTV cameras and satellite phones ensure real-time monitoring and communication in remote areas. These technologies enhance situational awareness and assist in tracking illegal activities (Caparini & Marenin, 2012). Technological advancements have significantly strengthened SSB's border control capabilities. KII-6 highlighted that "advanced surveillance tools have improved response times, allowing SSB to intercept illegal activities more effectively"- (KII, 05/02/2025). The integration of modern surveillance tools improves response time and security enforcement.

vii. Deployment of Female Personnel

SSB has deployed female personnel at border checkpoints to handle frisking and security checks of female travelers. Their presence ensures respectful and gender-sensitive security procedures. Female officers also engage with local women, encouraging them to report security concerns. This initiative enhances trust between law enforcement and border communities. According to KII-6, "the inclusion of female personnel in border security has strengthened community trust and improved intelligence-sharing on sensitive issues such as trafficking and gender-based violence"- (KII, 03/02/2025). SSB's deployment of women has set a benchmark for inclusive and efficient border security.

viii. Conduct of Seminars/Workshops

SSB field units regularly organizes seminars and workshops to educate personnel on legal frameworks and enforcement protocols. Topics include the Customs Act, NDPS Act, and wildlife protection laws. These training sessions improve legal awareness and operational compliance. Experts and senior officers provide practical insights into handling security challenges. KII-7 emphasized that "continuous training through seminars has improved legal awareness among SSB personnel, ensuring adherence to regulatory frameworks"- (KII, 03/02/2025). Such programs ensure that SSB personnel remain updated on evolving laws and best practices.

ix. Know Your Area

The "Know Your Area" (KYA) initiative helps SSB personnel gain in-depth knowledge of their assigned border regions. Officers familiarize themselves with local geography, culture, and security risks (Gerstein et al., 2018). This awareness enables them to prevent illegal activities more effectively. KYA strengthens engagement with local communities, fostering better cooperation and intelligence gathering. KII-7 highlighted that "KYA has enhanced operational readiness by improving officers' situational awareness and fostering better cooperation with local residents"- (KII, 05/02/2025). The initiative enhances operational readiness and ensures efficient border management.

4.1.3 Status of Deployment of APF, Nepal and SSB along Nepal–India Border

The deployment of border security forces plays a pivotal role in maintaining peace, order, and sovereignty in border regions. In the context of Nepal and India, the APF, Nepal, and SSB are key agencies tasked with ensuring the security of their respective border. The SSB is deployed along the India-Nepal border to prevent cross-border crime and smuggling. The APF, Nepal is responsible for border security on the Nepal side. Both forces work together to maintain security and prevent illegal activities along the border. Insight from FGD-2 reaffirmed that

APF, Nepal and SSB maintain a network of BOPs and conduct regular patrols. APF, Nepal's deployment is strategically spread across vulnerable points, with a focus on high-risk areas. The SSB has a more extensive network of BOPs, and their presence is more consistently visible. However, both forces face challenges in covering the entire length of the border due to resource constraints and logistical difficulties. Specific numbers and locations are sensitive information, but suffice to say both forces are deployed in a manner that attempts to maximize their coverage of the border.

(FGD, 09/01/2025)

This statement highlights the strategic positioning of BOPs, the deployment challenges, and the collaborative efforts of both forces to ensure border security. Despite differences in deployment density, both agencies strive to optimize their resources and maintain a strong security presence along the border. This chapter examines the status of APF, Nepal,

and SSB, highlighting their roles, responsibilities, and coordination in addressing border security challenges.

a. Status of Deployment of APF, Nepal

APF, Nepal, established under the APF Act, 2001, is mandated to safeguard Nepal's borders, prevent cross-border crimes, and uphold territorial integrity. It maintains a strong presence at BOPs, checkpoints, and patrol areas, focusing on controlling illegal activities. The force is responsible for border surveillance, coordination with Indian security agencies and maintaining peace and stability in the border regions. The APF, Nepal's deployment strategies are supported by specialized units trained in border management contributing to national security.

Table 4.8

Provincial Deployment of APF, Nepal along Nepal–India Border

S.N.	Province	Brigade	BN	Coy Independent	Proposed Border Coy	BOP	Total
1.	Koshi	1	5	1	10	45	62
2.	Madhesh	1	10	-	17	57	85
3.	Bagmati	1	1	-	1	5	8
4.	Gandaki	1	-	1	-	1	3
5.	Lumbini	1	8	-	9	47	65
6.	Sudur Paschim	1	4	2	8	43	58
Total		6	28	4	45	198	281

Source: APF, Nepal HQs, Border Security Department (2025)

With a total of 281 units, the table illustrates the APF, Nepal's wide-ranging deployment along the Nepal-India border. The deployment, which emphasizes a robust presence to maintain border security, surveillance, and efficient operations, consists of 6 brigades, 28 BNs, 4 independent COYs, 45 proposed border COYs and 198 BOPs.

KII-2 emphasized the strategic rationale behind the current deployment, stating, "Our deployment is strategically designed to maximize coverage of vulnerable border areas. The establishment of BOPs and the deployment of BNs and COYs aim to create a layered

security architecture that effectively deters and responds to cross-border threats"- (KII, 21/02/2025). This highlights the APF, Nepal's proactive approach to border security.

This deployment structure is designed to address the complex challenges faced by both the APF, Nepal and local border communities. Furthermore, during FGD (FGD-1), one participant emphasized: “A strong APF, Nepal presence along the border not only helps secure national borders but also builds confidence among local communities, fostering peace and stability” -(FGD, 07/01/2025). This structured and coordinated deployment of APF, Nepal personnel reflects the force’s dedication to maintaining national security and ensuring efficient border management.

b. Status of Deployment of SSB along Nepal–India Border

India’s border security is also supported by intelligence agencies, which assist in SSB is stationed in five Indian states Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, and Sikkim along the country's border with Nepal. This deployment is essential for controlling the open border between India and Nepal, which allows for unrestricted travel but also presents difficulties including illegal commerce, human trafficking, and cross-border smuggling. New Delhi serves as its headquarters, while its six regional offices are located in Ranikhet, Lucknow, Patna, Tezpur, Siliguri, and Guwahati. Along the Nepal-India border, four of these FHQs are stationed at Ranikhet, Lucknow, Patna, and Siliguri.

Table 4.9

SSB Deployment in Indian States Bordering Nepal's Province

S.N.	Bordering Nepal’s Province	FHQs	SHQs	BN HQs	Coy	BOP	Total
1.	Koshi	1	2	8	45	83	139
2.	Madhesh	1	3	8	43	67	122
3.	Bagmati	-	-	2	2	19	23
4.	Gandaki	-	-	-	1	-	1
5.	Lumbini	1	2	8	51	65	127
6.	Sudur Paschim	1	2	8	44	61	116
Total		4	9	34	186	295	528

Source: APF, Nepal HQs Border Security Department. (2025)

As shown in Table 4.9, the SSB's deployment reflects the strategic importance of specific regions along the Nepal-India border. Bordering Koshi province has the largest deployment with 139 units, followed by bordering Lumbini (127 units) and bordering Madhesh (122 units). Bordering Sudur Paschim, an area known for its complex border issues, is deployed with 116 units. On the other hand, bordering Bagmati and bordering Gandaki regions have relatively fewer deployments due to lower border security concerns. In total, 528 units, including 295 BOPs, are distributed across the Nepal-India border to ensure comprehensive security coverage.

In a FGD-2, one participant remarked, "The deployment of SSB along the Nepal-India border is key to preventing illegal activities. The forces are placed strategically to address security gaps in high-risk zones, ensuring better control over cross-border issues" (FGD, 09/01/2025).

Furthermore, KII-7 highlighted, "The SSB's presence along the border regions allows for continuous surveillance and better coordination with the local police and other security agencies, playing an essential role in maintaining the security of the border area" (KII, 11/01/2025).

This robust deployment strategy underlines the SSB's commitment to maintaining national security, managing the complexities of an open border, and addressing the challenges posed by cross-border crime. The force's strategic positioning, along with coordinated efforts with Indian and local agencies, continues to enhance the security framework along the Nepal-India border.

c. Comparative Analysis of Deployment Status of APF, Nepal and SSB

APF, Nepal, and SSB are the two primary forces tasked with safeguarding this shared border. While both agencies aim to achieve similar objectives, their deployment structures, strategies, and operational priorities differ significantly, shaped by their respective mandates, resource availability, and geopolitical contexts.

This comparative analysis explores the deployment status of APF, Nepal, and SSB, focusing on their strategic approaches, resource allocation, and effectiveness in managing security challenges along the border. Understanding these differences offers valuable insights into the strengths and limitations of both forces in addressing cross-border issues.

Table 4.10*Deployments Status at Bordering Koshi Province*

S.N.	APF, Nepal	SSB
1.	-	Frontier HQs- 1
2.	Brigade HQs- 1	Sector HQs- 2
3.	Battalion HQs– 5	Battalion HQs- 8
4.	Company HQs-1	-
5.	Proposed Coy-10	Company HQs- 45
6.	BOP- 45	BOP - 83
7.	Total- 62	Total- 139

Source: APF, Nepal HQs Border Security Department (2025)

Table 4.10 outlines the deployment status of the APF, Nepal and SSB bordering Koshi Province. The SSB has a larger presence across various units, including Frontier HQs, Sector HQs, BN HQs, COY HQs, and BOPs, with a total of 139 units compared to the APF, Nepal's 62.

Table 4.11*Deployments Status Bordering Madhesh Province*

S.N.	APF, Nepal	SSB
1.	-	Frontier HQs- 1
2.	Brigade HQs- 1	Sector HQs- 3
3.	Battalion HQs– 10	Battalion HQs- 8
4.	Company HQs-	-
5.	Proposed Coy-17	Company HQs- 43
6.	Bop- 57	Bop- 67
7.	Total- 85	Total- 122

Source: APF, Nepal HQs Border Security Department (2025)

Table 4.11 shows that the SSB has a stronger presence than the APF, Nepal bordering Madhesh Province, with a total of 122 units compared to the APF, Nepal's 85. The larger

number of units across categories such as Frontier HQs, Sector HQs, BN HQs, COY HQs, and BOPs enables the SSB to conduct more aggressive patrols and thorough inspections.

Table 4.12

Deployments Status Bordering Bagmati Province

S.N.	APF, Nepal	SSB
1.	-	Frontier HQs-
2.	Brigade HQs- 1	Sector HQs-
3.	Battalion HQs– 1	Battalion HQs- 2
4.	Company HQs-	-
5.	Proposed Coy-1	Company HQs- 2
6.	Bop- 5	Bop- 19
7.	Total- 8	Total- 23

Source: APF, Nepal HQs Border Security Department (2025)

Table 4.12 highlights that the SSB has a larger presence than the APF, Nepal bordering Bagmati Province, with a total of 23 units compared to the APF, Nepal's 8. The SSB has more units across various categories, including Frontier HQs, Sector HQs, BN HQs, COY HQs, and BOPs, which enhances its border security capacity.

Table 4.13

Deployments Status Bordering Gandaki Province

S.N.	APF, Nepal	SSB
1.	-	Frontier HQs-
2.	Brigade HQs- 1	Sector HQs-
3.	Battalion HQs–	Battalion HQs-
4.	Company HQs-1	-
5.	Proposed Coy-	Company HQs- 1
6.	Bop- 1	Bop-
7.	Total- 3	Total- 1

Source: APF, Nepal HQs Border Security Department (2025)

Table 4.13 shows that the APF, Nepal, has a greater number of units bordering Gandaki Province, with a total of 3 units compared to SSB's 1. This disparity is due to the smaller

or less extensive border that bordering Gandaki Province shares with India, resulting in fewer deployments. As compared to other border regions, the relatively limited border bordering Gandaki leads to a smaller security presence from both the APF, Nepal and SSB.

Table 4.14

Deployments Status Bordering Lumbini Province

S.N.	APF, Nepal	SSB
1.	-	Frontier HQs-1
2.	Brigade HQs- 1	Sector HQs-2
3.	Battalion HQs– 8	Battalion HQs-8
4.	Company HQs-	-
5.	Proposed Coy-9	Company HQs- 51
6.	Bop- 47	Bop-65
7.	Total- 65	Total- 127

Source: APF, Nepal HQs Border Security Department (2025)

Table 4.14 indicates that SSB has a greater presence and strength in Lumbini Province, with a total of 127 units compared to APF, Nepal's 65. The SSB's larger deployment, including Frontier HQs, Sector HQs, Bn HQs, COY HQs, and BOPs, provides it with a stronger security domain in the area. In contrast, APF, Nepal has small number of units and limited resources in the border region.

Table 4.15

Deployments Status Bordering Sudurpaschim Province

S.N.	APF, Nepal	SSB
1.	-	Frontier HQs-1
2.	Brigade HQs- 1	Sector HQs-2
3.	Battalion HQs– 4	Battalion HQs-8
4.	Company HQs-2	-
5.	Proposed Coy-8	Company HQs- 44
6.	Bop- 43	Bop-61
7.	Total- 58	Total- 116

Source: APF, Nepal HQs Border Security Department (2025)

Table 4.15 shows that SSB has a larger presence and overall strength than the APF, Nepal bordering Sudurpaschim Province, with a total of 116 units compared to the APF, Nepal's 58. The SSB has more units across various categories, including Frontier HQs, Sector HQs, BN HQs, COY HQs, and BOPs, which enhances its border security capacity. In comparison, the APF, Nepal, has fewer units and limited strength, highlighting the disparity in border security resources between the two forces.

Table 4.16

Overall Deployment Status of APF, Nepal and SSB

S.N.	Bordering Province of Nepal	APF, Nepal	SSB in India
1.	Koshi	62	139
2.	Madhesh	85	122
3.	Bagmati	8	23
4.	Gandaki	3	1
5.	Lumbini	65	127
6.	Sudurpaschim	58	116
7.	Total	281	528

Source: APF, Nepal HQs Border Security Department (2025)

Table 4.16 highlights a significant disparity in the deployment strength of the SSB and APF, Nepal, with the SSB operating 528 units compared to the APF, Nepal's 281 units. SSB consistently exhibits a higher concentration of units, particularly BOPs, across all provinces bordering India. This disparity suggests that SSB's organizational design favors a more intensive security model, characterized by closer surveillance and enhanced rapid deployment capabilities.

Table 4.17

Deployment Statistics of APF, Nepal, and SSB

Security Agency	Strength at Border	Units	Average Distance between BOP
APF, Nepal	15,441	281	7.7 Km
SSB	45000	528	3.9 km

Source: APF, Nepal HQs Border Security Department (2025)

The table highlights significant differences in the deployment strength, unit distribution, and average distance between BOPs, APF, Nepal, and SSB along the Nepal-India border. The SSB operates with a considerably larger force of 45,000 personnel and 528 units, with an average BOP distance of 3.9 km, enabling intensive surveillance and rapid response to emerging threats. In contrast, APF, Nepal, has a deployment of 15441 personnel across 281 units, with an average BOP distance of 7.7 km. This wider spacing of BOPs suggests a strategic focus on broader territorial coverage and resource optimization.

From the FGD-1, it was highlighted that

While SSB's dense deployment allows for quick response and enhanced surveillance, APF, Nepal's wider spacing requires more effective use of technology and coordination with other security agencies. The longer distances between BOPs in APF, Nepal's deployment may present challenges in terms of response times, particularly in remote areas or difficult terrain. However, APF's deployment strategy is also seen as an opportunity to maximize operational coverage while utilizing limited resources efficiently.

(FGD, 07/01/2025)

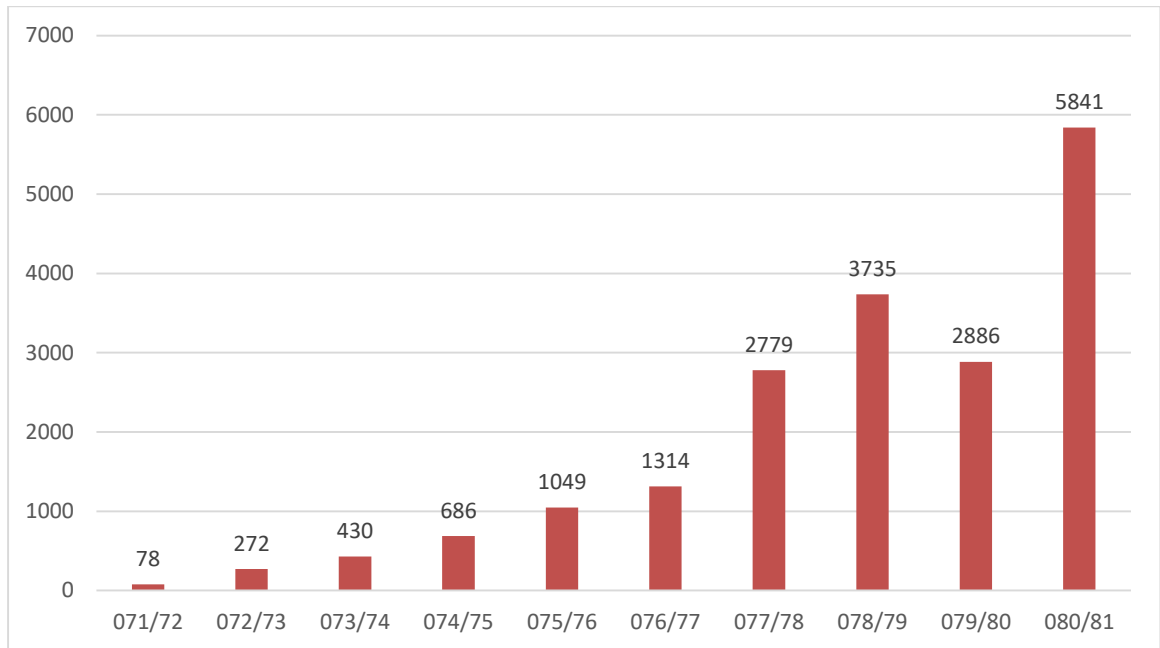
In conclusion, the differences in deployment strength, unit distribution, and BOP distances between APF, Nepal, and SSB reflect distinct operational priorities, resource allocation, and geographic considerations. Both forces have tailored their strategies to their unique border security needs, with the SSB focusing on concentrated, high-intensity surveillance, and APF, Nepal emphasizing broader territorial coverage and resource optimization.

d. Status of Joint Patrol between APF, Nepal and SSB

The Joint Patrol between the SSB and the APF, Nepal is a collaborative effort aimed at strengthening border security along the Nepal-India border. These joint patrols help improve coordination between the two forces, ensuring better monitoring and control of the border to prevent illegal activities such as smuggling, human trafficking, and infiltration. The patrols also foster bilateral cooperation, enhancing trust and mutual support between the forces in maintaining regional stability and security.

Figure 4.1

Number of Joint Patrols Conducted between APF, Nepal and SSB



Source: APF, Nepal HQs Border Security Department (2025)

The data shows a significant increase in the number of joint patrols conducted between APF, Nepal and SSB over the fiscal years. The number rose from 78 in 071/72 to 5841 in 080/81, indicating a growing emphasis on border security. The surge in joint patrols reflects the heightened collaboration between the forces to address security concerns, enhance coordination, and tackle issues such as smuggling, infiltration, and illegal activities along the Nepal-India border.

KII-4 emphasized that-"the increase in joint patrols has contributed significantly to improving situational awareness and intelligence-sharing between both forces, leading to more effective border management" -(KII, 08/01/2025).

Similarly, FGD-2 emphasized- "the positive impact of joint patrols, with participants observing a significant decrease in illegal activities. This reduction was attributed to the increased presence and coordinated efforts of APF, Nepal, and SSB. The discussions also underscored the need for continued collaboration between the two forces to sustain the progress made"-(FGD, 09/01/2025).

The findings from both KII and FGD corroborate the quantitative data, highlighting the effectiveness of the joint patrols in achieving their intended objectives. The sustained

increase in patrol numbers signifies a shared commitment to maintaining regional security and stability, further solidifying the partnership between the APF, Nepal and SSB.

e. Frequency of Coordination Meetings Between APF, Nepal and SSB

Effective coordination is crucial for maintaining peace, security, and curtailing cross-border crime. To achieve this, security agencies from both Nepal and India engage in regular coordination meetings to exchange relevant information, improve operational efficiency, and address border security challenges. These meetings between the APF, Nepal, and the SSB take place at different levels and serve as a platform for intelligence sharing, joint operations planning, and addressing issues.

i. Levels and Frequency of Coordination Meetings

The coordination meetings between APF, Nepal, and SSB are structured at different levels, each with distinct objectives and frequencies: The level and frequency of coordination meetings are discussed in following ways.

IG/DG Level: These meetings occur once a year. They focus on high-level strategic issues, border security assessments, and overall coordination. After the 8th IG/DG Level coordination meeting, it was decided to conduct the meeting by semi-annually.

DIG Level: These meeting is held every three months. They are focused on the regional operations, coordination between different battalions, and addressing specific challenges in their respective regions.

Battalion Level: The coordination meetings take place once a month at the battalion level. These focus on operational readiness, coordination with local law enforcement, and immediate security concerns at the ground level.

COY/BOP Level: Meetings are held fortnightly at the BOP level. These are based on immediate operational requirements, emerging threats, and specific incidents that require attention.

ii. Status of Coordination Meetings

APF, Nepal, and SSB have conducted and participated in various cross-border coordination meetings at different levels. Table 4.19 presents the frequency and distribution of these meetings over the past fiscal years.

Table 4.18*Status of Coordination Meeting Between APF, Nepal and SSB*

Fiscal Year	DG/IG Level	Department (AIG/Operation Chief)	DIG Level	District Level	BN Level	Coy Level	Local Level	Total
2075/76	1		6	20	16	3	2	48
2076/77	1		5	10	35	7	9	67
2077/78	0		1	16	64	1	36	118
2078/79	1		5	21	92	6	39	164
2079/80	1	11	4	28	160	60	99	363
2080/81	0	2	5	18	81	52	63	221
Total	4	13	26	113	448	129	248	981

Source: APF, Nepal HQs Border Security Department (2025)

The data in Table 4.18 highlights a significant increase in cross-border coordination meetings between APF, Nepal, and SSB over the years, peaking in the fiscal year 2079/80 with 363 meetings. The highest engagement occurs at BN level (448 meetings), followed by local-level interactions (248 meetings), indicating a strong emphasis on operational coordination in the field.

Coordination meetings serve as a platform for discussing and resolving law enforcement challenges along the Nepal-India border. As highlighted by KII-4, - “Frequent lower-level coordination meetings significantly contribute to a more responsive approach in addressing emerging security threats” -(KII, 08/01/2025). Similarly, FGD-1 revealed that- “coordination meetings have significantly improved operational efficiency and trust between the two forces. However, there is a need for more frequent and streamlined communication to address emerging threats effectively”- (FGD, 07/01/2025).

KII and FGD findings reveal that frequent lower-level meetings enhance responsiveness to emerging security threats and improve operational efficiency. However, participants stressed the importance of holding more regular meetings and streamlining communication to ensure real-time information exchange and faster response times. These coordination meetings have fostered mutual trust, improved operational synchronization, and strengthened law enforcement cooperation between APF, Nepal, and SSB.

4.1.4 Similarities and Dissimilarities in Deployment Practices

The deployment of APF, Nepal, and SSB along the Nepal-India border follows structured strategies that ensure border security, prevent cross-border crimes, and strengthen bilateral cooperation. Despite operating under different national frameworks, both forces share various deployment similarities while also exhibiting key differences due to their respective mandates, operational structures, and jurisdictional authorities. The similarities and differences in their deployment practices influence their overall effectiveness in managing border security. The analysis is based on data collected through FGDs, Key KIIs, and secondary sources.

a. Similarities in Deployment Practices

The deployment of APF, Nepal and SSB, follows many similar patterns to ensure border security. Both forces maintain networks of BOPs at strategic locations and conduct regular patrols to prevent illegal activities. Their deployment focuses on high-risk areas, intelligence gathering, and coordinated efforts to enhance border management. This section examines the similarities in the deployment practices of the APF and SSB, emphasizing their strategic coordination, intelligence-sharing, and resource management to address ongoing border security challenges

i. Hierarchical Command Structure

Both APF, Nepal, and SSB follow a hierarchical command structure to ensure operational efficiency and effective decision-making. The APF, Nepal is led by an IG, with AIGs overseeing departments, DIGs commanding brigades, and lower-ranking officers managing BNs, COYs, and BOPs (Aryal, 2022). Similarly, the SSB is commanded by a DG, with IGs leading Frontier HQs, and lower-ranking officers handling SHQs, BNs, and BOPs. As noted by KII-1, "The structured chain of command in APF, Nepal ensures timely decision-making and accountability at all levels, which is similar to the operational framework of SSB" -(KII, 21/02/2025). This alignment in command structures facilitates effective management and coordination in border security operations for both forces.

ii. Shared Goals in Border Security

The APF, Nepal, and the SSB share common objectives in maintaining peace and security along the Nepal-India border. Both forces play a crucial role in preventing illegal border

crossings, combating human trafficking and smuggling, and supporting disaster response and humanitarian assistance efforts (Jha, 2022). As noted in KII-2, "The primary goal of APF, Nepal and SSB is to secure the border while maintaining harmonious relations between border communities of Nepal and India"- (KII, 21/02/2025). This highlights the importance of balancing security measures, ensuring that border management efforts contribute to regional stability and mutual trust.

iii. **BOP-Based Border Security Model**

APF, Nepal, and SSB adopt a BOP-centric deployment model, with BOPs serving as the primary units for border security operations. Both forces strategically deploy personnel at BOPs along the Nepal-India border to monitor movements, prevent illegal activities, and respond to security threats (Upreti, 2021). FGD-1 revealed that "BOPs are strategically located to cover vulnerable areas, such as illegal crossing points and smuggling routes" - (FGD, 07/01/2025). Similarly, KII-7 emphasized that "SSB officials highlighted the importance of BOPs in maintaining a visible presence and deterring cross-border crimes" -(KII, 11/01/2025). This approach underscores the critical role of BOPs in enhancing border security and controlling cross-border illegal activities.

iv. **Joint Patrol Mechanisms**

Regular patrolling and intelligence-sharing are integral components of the border security strategies of both APF, Nepal, and SSB. Both forces conduct joint patrols along the Nepal-India border to prevent unauthorized crossings, smuggling, and other criminal activities (Prasad, 2022). FGD-1 highlighted that "joint patrols help deter illegal activities and reinforce a sense of security among border communities" -(FGD, 07/01/2025). However, KII-4 participants pointed out that "operational constraints, such as communication barriers and differences in standard operating procedures, sometimes hinder the effectiveness of joint patrols" -(KII, 08/01/2025). These findings underscore the importance of addressing operational challenges to improve the efficiency of joint security efforts.

v. **Coordination Meetings**

Regular coordination meetings between APF, Nepal, and SSB take place at various command levels. Annual strategic discussions occur between the IG of APF and the DG of

SSB, while quarterly and monthly meetings at lower levels address operational challenges. These structured interactions not only facilitate information sharing and joint problem-solving but also strengthen mutual trust and coordination between the two forces, contributing to more effective border security management ((Kharel, 2021).

vi. Technological Adoption in Surveillance

APF, Nepal, and SSB are progressively incorporating modern surveillance technologies into their border security operations. APF, Nepal utilizes drones and CCTV cameras in key border areas, while SSB deploys advanced systems such as thermal imaging and satellite-based monitoring (Das, 2008). FGD-1 highlighted that “technological advancements have significantly improved surveillance capabilities, but further investment is needed to enhance coverage in vulnerable areas” -(FGD, 07/01/2025). This suggests that while technological tools have bolstered border security, there is a continuing need for increased investment to address gaps in surveillance coverage, particularly in high-risk regions.

b. Dissimilarities in Deployment Practices

The deployment practices of APF, Nepal, and SSB reflect the distinct roles each force plays in maintaining security along the Nepal-India border. Both forces are responsible for preventing illegal activities such as cross-border smuggling, human trafficking, and infiltration, but their operational strategies differ due to their unique mandates, operational priorities, and national security policies. These are discussed on following ways.

i. Jurisdiction and Legal Authority

One of the key differences between the APF, Nepal, and the SSB lies in their jurisdiction and legal authority. The APF, Nepal, operates under Nepalese law, with a broader mandate that includes internal security, disaster management, and border security. In contrast, the SSB operates under Indian law and is solely focused on border security and maintaining safety among border populations (Upreti, 2021). As noted by KII-3, "This difference in legal authority influences their operational focus and deployment strategies" (KII, 20/02/2025). This distinction shapes the approach each force takes in securing the border and addressing various security challenges.

ii. Operational Focus and Primary Mandates

The APF, Nepal's primary mandate includes internal security, disaster response, and border management, while the SSB focuses exclusively on border security and community engagement. This distinction is evident in their deployment practices (Baral & Pyakurel, 2013). FGD-2 mentioned that “APF, Nepal often diverts resources to internal security and disaster relief operations, impacting border security efforts.” In contrast, the SSB “allocates most of its resources to border-related activities, such as patrolling and surveillance” (FGD, 09/01/2025). This difference in resource allocation and focus influences the operational strategies and effectiveness of both forces in securing the border.

iii. Organization Structure

The organizational structures of APF, Nepal and SSB differ due to their respective national security frameworks. The organizational structures of APF, Nepal and SSB differ due to their respective national security frameworks. APF, Nepal functions as part of Nepal’s internal security apparatus, while SSB operates as a specialized border security force (Upreti, 2021). KII-5 noted, "SSB has a more robust organizational structure with specialized units and better logistical support compared to APF, Nepal"- (KII, 10/01/2025). SSB benefits from dedicated border management divisions, advanced logistical networks, and a larger operational workforce. In contrast, APF, Nepal operates within a multi-functional security role, balancing border security with disaster response and internal security duties.

iv. Community Engagement Strategies

The community engagement strategies of APF, Nepal, and SSB differ in approach and implementation. SSB actively conducts medical camps, educational programs, and cultural events to build trust and gather intelligence, as noted by KII-7, "SSB’s community engagement efforts help foster trust and provide valuable information for security operations" -(KII, 05/02/2025). In contrast, APF, Nepal's focus lies more on direct security-related activities, with fewer community outreach initiatives. This aligns with findings by Jha (2022), who observed that SSB’s proactive engagement fosters goodwill and enhances border relations, whereas APF, Nepal's approach remains more operationally focused.

v. **Deployment Density and Resource Allocation**

SSB maintains a higher deployment density along the Nepal-India border due to India's extensive security concerns (Baral & Pyakurel, 2013). KII-7 noted that "SSB benefits from greater financial and technological resources, allowing for a larger presence" (KII, 10/01/2025). In contrast, APF, Nepal faces personnel and resource constraints, limiting its coverage along the border. KII-4 highlighted that "APF, Nepal struggles to deploy sufficient forces in all vulnerable areas," prioritizing high-risk zones and relying on coordination with local agencies (KII, 11/01/2025). This disparity in deployment capacity reflects the differing security challenges and available resources between the two forces.

vi. **Real-Time Intelligence Exchange**

The SSB employs advanced digital platforms for intelligence-sharing, facilitating faster coordination with other Indian security agencies. KII-7 emphasized that "This technological edge allows the SSB to monitor border activities and respond to incidents in real-time through centralized command and control centers" (KII, 11/01/2025). In contrast, FGD-2 highlighted that "APF, Nepal continues to rely on traditional communication methods, such as radio and manual reporting systems, which often result in slower information sharing and delayed response times" (FGD, 09/01/2025). This difference in communication infrastructure underscores the challenges APF, Nepal faces in achieving real-time coordination and responsiveness along the border.

4.2 **Discussion**

This chapter presents the key findings derived from the research on the deployment practices of APF, Nepal, and SSB along the Nepal-India border. These findings are structured around the core research objectives and critical questions that guide this study. The analysis is supported by KIIs, FGDs, and secondary sources to provide a comprehensive understanding of their deployment practices, operational similarities and differences, and potential improvements in deployment strategies. This triangulation of data sources ensures a comprehensive understanding of the complex dynamics at play along this border region.

Drawing upon theoretical frameworks in international relations, this discussion will contextualize the observed deployment practices. Traditional realist perspectives, which view the state as the primary actor seeking security in an anarchic international system, would

emphasize the role of APF, Nepal and SSB in reinforcing Nepal and India's territorial integrity and controlling cross-border movement (Waltz, 1979). In contrast, liberal theories would highlight the joint patrols and coordination meetings as mechanisms for managing the border collaboratively, balancing security with the facilitation of legitimate flows for mutual benefit (Keohane & Nye, 1977).

Furthermore, constructivist approaches would underscore how shared understandings and interactions between APF, Nepal and SSB shape their cooperation in addressing border security threats (Wendt, 1992), while securitization theory offers a lens to understand how specific cross-border issues are framed as security priorities, influencing the deployment strategies and resource allocation of both forces (Buzan, Wæver, & de Wilde, 1998).

The hierarchical command structure in both forces ensures effective coordination and rapid decision-making. The APF, Nepal, follows a structured command system with its HQs overseeing brigades, BNs, and COYs, culminating in BOPs managed by officers at various levels. The SSB mirrors this structure, with the Force HQs in New Delhi overseeing Frontier HQs, Sector HQs, BNs, and BOPs. KII-1, a senior APF, Nepal officer, noted that "the structured command system ensures clarity in roles and responsibilities, facilitating better decision-making during security operations" -(KII, 21/02/2025).

This alignment in hierarchical structures enables both forces to maintain operational efficiency and address border security challenges effectively. However, as pointed out in KII-7 with an SSB officer, "the need for quicker decision-making at the ground level remains a challenge, as lower-level officers often have to wait for approvals from higher command"-(KII, 05/02/2025). This observation aligns with Bhardwaj (2007), who emphasized that effective border management requires balancing security requirements with diplomatic considerations, which can often be hindered by bureaucratic delays.

The legal mandates governing APF, Nepal, and SSB shape their deployment practices. APF, Nepal operates under the APF Act, 2001, which mandates it to secure Nepal's international borders and prevent trans-border crimes. However, gaps in regulatory frameworks limit its enforcement capabilities in certain areas (APF Act, 2001). On the other hand, the SSB Act, 2007, grants broader jurisdictional powers to SSB, including the authority to conduct searches, arrests, and intelligence operations within a 15 km radius of the international border (SSB Act, 2007).

KII-3, a legal expert, pointed out that "harmonizing border management policies between Nepal and India through bilateral agreements could enhance the operational efficiency of both forces."(KII, 20/02/2025). This observation aligns with Caparini and Marenin (2012), who argued that the evolving global security landscape necessitates more flexible and comprehensive border security strategies. The lack of harmonized policies between Nepal and India, as highlighted by Prasad (2022), further exacerbates the challenges faced by both forces in managing cross-border threats.

Both APF, Nepal, and SSB maintain a network of BOPs and conduct regular patrols along the Nepal-India border. However, data reveal significant differences in their deployment strategies. SSB operates with a much larger force, maintaining 528 units compared to APF, Nepal's 281 units, and deploying approximately 45,000 personnel against APF, Nepal's 15441. This difference is further reflected in the spacing of their BOPs, SSB maintains an average distance of 3.9 km between outposts, whereas APF, Nepal, positions its BOPs approximately 7.7 km apart (APF, Nepal HQs, BSD,2025). This contrast indicates that SSB follows a high-intensity security model with frequent patrols and rapid response mechanisms, while APF, Nepal, adopts a broader coverage strategy, balancing border security with other national security obligations. This discrepancy affects surveillance capacity, response time, and the effectiveness of border management.

As Upreti (2021) suggests, the deployment of security forces is a primary indicator of border security, with their presence establishing trust and acting as a deterrent. KII-2 noted that the wider spacing of BOPs is primarily due to resource constraints and the need to allocate personnel to other security duties. In contrast, KII-7, a senior SSB official, emphasized that a denser BOP network enables continuous surveillance and more effective law enforcement along sensitive border regions. This resource disparity is consistent with the findings of Baral and Pyakurel (2013), who highlighted the role of border police from both nations in securing the border, with SSB having a more extensive deployment compared to APF, Nepal. The study also noted that both forces share common objectives, including combating smuggling, preventing the movement of criminals, and curbing human trafficking, but the difference in resource allocation impacts their operational effectiveness.

Both forces face significant operational challenges, including logistical constraints, lack of advanced surveillance technology, and limited inter-agency coordination. FGD-1 revealed

that "despite the deployment of APF, Nepal, cross-border smuggling and human trafficking remain persistent due to inadequate intelligence-sharing mechanisms." Similar sentiments were echoed in KII-6, where an SSB officer noted that "while joint operations have improved, there are still gaps in real-time information exchange that hinder proactive security responses." These challenges are consistent with the findings of Upreti (2021), who highlighted key challenges in border management, such as geographical difficulties, socio-economic similarities, operational constraints, and inadequate border laws. The study emphasized that addressing these challenges requires a collaborative approach among stakeholders to strengthen border security.

To address the existing challenges, the APF, Nepal and SSB have ramped up joint patrols and coordination meetings, significantly enhancing cross-border security efforts. The number of joint patrols has surged from 78 in FY 2071/72 to 5,841 in FY 2080/81, reflecting improved operational collaboration (APF, Nepal HQs, BSD, 2025). Regular meetings between counterparts at various levels, from IG/DG-level strategic discussions to bi-weekly BOP-level engagements, have significantly strengthened mutual understanding and crisis management. Data reveals a significant rise in cross-border coordination meetings, reaching 363 in FY 2079/80, with the highest engagement at the BN level (448 meetings) and local level (248 meetings), underscoring a strong focus on field-level collaboration.

As noted in KII-4, "frequent lower-level meetings are essential for a more responsive approach to emerging threats" -(KII, 08/01/2025). Kharel (2021) emphasized that seamless coordination between the security forces of Nepal and India is critical to addressing emerging threats, as the absence of structured communication mechanisms can result in misunderstandings and inefficiencies. This structured, multi-tiered approach from strategic to tactical levels enhances real-time information sharing, swift threat response, and overall border security, reflecting an adaptive strategy where local insights and effective communication are vital for maintaining stability along the Nepal-India border.

Both APF, Nepal, and SSB have introduced innovative good practices that contribute to their operational success. APF, Nepal, has focused on strengthening border monitoring, implementing multi-tiered monitoring mechanisms, border facilitation committees, and community-based security initiatives and increasing female personnel deployment, while SSB has implemented specialized units such as Small Action Teams. Border Interaction

Teams and Anti-Human Trafficking Units to address specific security threats. The integration of technology, including drones, surveillance cameras, and digital monitoring systems, has further enhanced border control measures (Caparini & Marenin, 2012; Upreti, 2021). These initiatives demonstrate a strategic shift towards a more adaptive and intelligence-driven security approach, ensuring a responsive and efficient deployment along the Nepal-India border

The deployment practices of APF, Nepal, and SSB along the Nepal-India border exhibit both commonalities and distinctions, driven by their national frameworks and operational priorities. Both forces adopt a hierarchical command structure and rely on BOPs as the foundation of their border security operations. Regular joint patrols and intelligence sharing are central to their strategies, with technological integration. However, operational challenges arise from differences in standard procedures, communication barriers, and coordination limitations, which sometimes hinder the full effectiveness of joint operations. While both forces engage with local communities, the SSB emphasizes community-driven initiatives, whereas APF, Nepal, focuses more on law enforcement and security enforcement. Significant differences also exist between APF, Nepal, and the SSB in terms of operational mandates and resource allocation.

As Bhardwaj (2007) stressed, the primary objective of border management is to ensure state security, followed by maintaining interstate relation. APF, Nepal, balances its border security role with disaster response and internal security duties, whereas the SSB is exclusively dedicated to border management. As a result, the SSB enjoys a higher deployment density and greater resource availability, which enhances its operational capacity. In contrast, the APF, Nepal, faces challenges in deploying sufficient resources across the entire border due to limited personnel and logistical constraints. Strengthening intelligence-sharing platforms and improving technological resources are critical for enhancing the APF, Nepal's effectiveness, as highlighted in the research findings.

Despite the structural and operational differences, both forces contribute significantly to border security. The deployment of APF, Nepal, has been instrumental in reducing trans-border crimes, as affirmed by KII-2: "The presence of APF, Nepal along the border has led to a notable decline in illegal activities"-(KII, 21/02/2025). However, limitations in manpower and infrastructure pose ongoing challenges. FGD-1 participants emphasized that

"while APF, Nepal's deployment improves security, its effectiveness is constrained by the lack of advanced surveillance technology and inter-agency coordination"-(FGD, 07/01/2025). Conversely, the SSB benefits from superior resources, enabling it to maintain a robust security presence. KII-7 with an SSB officer highlighted that "the force's extensive deployment allows for continuous surveillance and effective control over high-risk areas"-(KII, 03/01/2025). However, SSB also faces criticism for instances of excessive force and challenges in engaging with local border communities.

The deployment practices of APF, Nepal, and SSB along the Nepal-India border reflect both strengths and areas for improvement. While their coordinated efforts and joint patrols have contributed to enhanced border security, challenges persist in resource distribution, infrastructure development, and legal harmonization. Strengthening intelligence-sharing mechanisms, increasing bilateral cooperation, and investing in modern infrastructure are crucial for addressing these gaps. A more integrated approach will not only enhance operational efficiency but also foster mutual trust and stability in the region. By implementing these improvements, APF, Nepal, and SSB can better fulfill their security mandates and ensure a safer and more effectively managed border.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Summary

This research endeavors to provide a comprehensive examination of the deployment practices of APF, Nepal, and SSB of India along their shared border. Recognizing the critical role of effective border management in ensuring national security and fostering regional stability, this study seeks to address two fundamental questions: Firstly, how are APF, Nepal, and SSB operationally deployed along Nepal-India border? Secondly, what are the key similarities and dissimilarities that characterize the deployment strategies of these two border security forces. The study employs a qualitative research design, combining descriptive and analytical approaches to provide a comprehensive understanding of the deployment practices of APF, Nepal, and SSB. Primary data was gathered through Interviews, KIIs and FGDs, targeting officers from both forces and local communities. Secondary data was sourced from libraries, online articles, and published research papers. This triangulation of data ensures a robust analysis of the dynamics along the Nepal-India border.

Nepal, bordered by China to the north and India to the south, east, and west, shares distinct border dynamics with its neighbors. The open border system with India, as established in the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship, has facilitated cultural exchange, trade, and people-to-people ties but also poses challenges like smuggling, trafficking, and security concerns. Historically, the border has lacked robust security infrastructure, leaving them vulnerable to illegal activities. To address these challenges, the APF, Nepal, has been deployed since 2001, focusing on border security, crime prevention, and revenue protection. Similarly, India's SSB guards the Indo-Nepal border, emphasizing intelligence and enforcement. Both agencies face operational challenges and increasingly recognize the importance of bilateral cooperation for effective border management

The deployment practices of APF, Nepal and SSB along the Nepal-India border offer a comprehensive view of the challenges and strategies involved in border security between two neighboring nations. These practices are shaped by various theoretical perspectives that offer insights into the nature of border management. Realist theories focus on the

primary concern of state security and sovereignty, viewing borders as critical components for maintaining territorial integrity. This perspective explains the strong focus on border enforcement, as both APF, Nepal and SSB aim to control the movement of people and goods while protecting national interests.

Conversely, liberal theories offer a more optimistic outlook, highlighting the importance of international cooperation and the role of institutions in fostering mutual benefits, including the facilitation of legitimate cross-border flows. The Nepal-India border has a historical context of cooperation through the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship, which promotes cultural exchange and economic ties. From this lens, the collaboration between APF, Nepal and SSB can be seen as an opportunity to manage the border effectively while encouraging positive interactions between the countries.

Constructivist approaches bring attention to the socially constructed nature of border security, where shared norms, identities, and historical interactions between Nepal and India shape how both nations perceive and address border-related issues. These shared experiences and cultural connections often foster cooperation, but at times, perceptions of security threats and national interests can lead to conflict or tension. Securitization theory also plays a crucial role in understanding how border-related concerns, such as smuggling, trafficking, and terrorism, are framed as existential threats, justifying increased security measures and prioritizing national security over other considerations, including human rights and civilian welfare.

APF, Nepal and the SSB follow a hierarchical command structure, which is essential for ensuring coordination and rapid decision-making. At the strategic level, the APF, Nepal operates under a structured command system, with responsibilities divided across its HQs, brigades, BNs, and BOPs. Similarly, the SSB follows a parallel hierarchy. This structure enhances operational clarity and efficiency. However, challenges remain at the ground level where both forces experience delays in decision-making due to bureaucratic processes. Lower-level officers often await approvals from higher commands, which can hinder quick responses in rapidly evolving situations.

The legal mandates of both forces influence their deployment practices. APF, Nepal operating under the APF Act, 2001, focuses on securing Nepal's international borders and preventing cross-border crimes, although its jurisdiction is limited in certain areas. The SSB, under the SSB Act, 2007, has broader powers, including conducting arrests and

searches within 15 km of the border. Harmonizing border management policies between Nepal and India could enhance the operational efficiency of both forces.

The deployment strategies of the APF, Nepal and SSB exhibit notable differences. The SSB maintains a higher number of personnel and more frequent patrols, with approximately 45,000 personnel and 528 Units, compared to the APF, Nepal's 15,441 personnel and 281 Units. The SSB's BOPs are closer together, averaging 3.9 km apart, while APF, Nepal Units are spaced about 7.7 km apart. This difference reflects a high-intensity security model employed by the SSB, with continuous surveillance and rapid response capabilities, whereas the APF, Nepal adopts a broader coverage strategy due to resource constraints.

Both forces face operational challenges such as logistical constraints, limited surveillance technology, and insufficient inter-agency coordination. Despite efforts to improve coordination through joint patrols and intelligence-sharing mechanisms, gaps in real-time information exchange continue to hamper proactive security responses. These challenges are compounded by geographical and socio-economic factors that make border management more complex. While both forces are committed to combating cross-border smuggling and human trafficking, the lack of advanced technology and coordination between agencies remains a significant hurdle.

In response to operational challenges, the APF, Nepal and SSB have significantly increased joint patrols and coordination efforts. From 78 joint patrols in FY 2071/72, the number surged to 5,841 in FY 2080/81, indicating a marked improvement in collaboration. Regular meetings between the two forces, ranging from strategic discussions at the IG/DG level to tactical engagements at the BOP level, have strengthened cross-border security efforts. Both forces have introduced innovative practices to enhance operational success. APF, Nepal has implemented multi-tiered monitoring mechanisms, community-based security initiatives, and increased female personnel deployment. SSB, on the other hand, has developed specialized units such as Small Action Teams and Anti-Human Trafficking Units to address specific security concerns. Both forces are also integrating technology, including drones, surveillance cameras, and digital monitoring systems, to improve border control and operational efficiency.

The deployment practices of the APF, Nepal and SSB reflect both common objectives and distinct operational strategies. Both forces rely on BOPs and engage in joint patrols, but

differences in command procedures, communication systems, and resource allocation impact the effectiveness of their operations. The APF, Nepal's broader security responsibilities, including internal security and disaster response, limit its ability to maintain a dense presence along the border. In contrast, the SSB's exclusive focus on border management allows for more robust deployment. These differences result in varied operational strategies, with SSB adopting a high-intensity security model and APF, Nepal employing a broader coverage approach.

Despite these differences, both the APF, Nepal and SSB significantly contribute to border security. Their deployment practices highlight both their strengths and areas for improvement. Despite their joint efforts, challenges such as resource allocation, infrastructure development, and legal harmonization persist. Strengthening intelligence-sharing mechanisms, increasing bilateral cooperation, and investing in modern infrastructure are critical for addressing these gaps. By adopting the recommendations, both forces can enhance their operational efficiency and ensure more effective management of the Nepal-India border.

5.2 Conclusion

This research provides a comprehensive analysis of the deployment practices of APF, Nepal, and SSB along the Nepal-India border, emphasizing their operational strengths, challenges. The study highlighted the historical context of the border's security, shaped by Nepal's open border system with India, which has facilitated cultural exchange and trade but also exposed the region to various security challenges such as cross-border crime and trafficking. In response to these challenges, the APF, Nepal, and the SSB have been deployed to maintain border security, with each force adopting distinct operational strategies based on their mandates, resources, and local conditions.

The deployment practices of APF, Nepal, and SSB along the Nepal-India border reflect a complex interplay of theoretical perspectives on border security. Realist theories underscore the state's focus on sovereignty and territorial integrity, evident in both forces' efforts to control movement and protect national interests. However, liberal theories highlight the cooperative dimension, rooted in the historical 1950 treaty fostering cross-border exchange and reflected in collaborative efforts between the forces. Constructivist approaches emphasize the socially constructed nature of border security, where shared

norms and historical ties shape perceptions and interactions, sometimes fostering cooperation and other times tension. Securitization theory explains the prioritization of security measures in response to perceived existential threats like smuggling and trafficking. Consequently, the deployment strategies of both forces are a dynamic outcome of these competing and overlapping theoretical lenses, navigating the balance between national security imperatives and the realities of a shared, open border

The deployment strategies of both APF, Nepal and SSB, while sharing a common objective of securing the Nepal-India border, differ significantly in terms of resource allocation, personnel strength, and operational focus. The SSB maintains a more intense security model, with a larger number of personnel and closer border outposts, allowing for continuous surveillance and rapid response. In contrast, the APF, Nepal adopts a broader coverage strategy, constrained by fewer resources, which affects its ability to maintain a dense presence along the border. These differences are further compounded by challenges in logistical support, inadequate surveillance technology, and coordination difficulties between the two forces.

The study identified a set of common operational challenges that hinder the effectiveness of both the APF, Nepal, and the SSB. These include persistent limitations in resources, the need for modernization of surveillance technology, and the critical issue of inadequate real-time inter-agency coordination. While both forces have demonstrated a commitment to enhancing cooperation through increased joint patrols and intelligence-sharing initiatives, the research revealed that significant gaps remain in achieving seamless and proactive information exchange. Furthermore, the complex geographical terrain and socio-economic conditions prevalent along the border present ongoing logistical and operational hurdles.

Moving forward, there is a need to address the existing gaps in border security through greater coordination, investment in modern technologies, and a more harmonized legal framework between Nepal and India. Strengthening intelligence-sharing mechanisms and establishing clear protocols for cross-border cooperation will enhance the effectiveness of both APF, Nepal and SSB in managing security threats. Furthermore, increasing resources, improving infrastructure, and enhancing personnel training will be essential to overcoming the challenges faced by both forces. A comprehensive and cooperative approach, balancing the need for robust security with the benefits of cross-border collaboration, will ensure a more secure and well-managed Nepal-India border in the future.

APPENDICES

Appendix 'A'

(Refer to page no. 23)

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW AND FOCUSED GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Question for Key Informant Interview and Focused Group Discussion

Interview/Key Informant Interview

- (a) What are the primary roles and responsibilities of APF, Nepal / SSB in maintaining border security?
- (b) What are the regulatory frameworks guiding the deployment of APF, Nepal /SSB?
- (c) What is the current deployment status of APF, Nepal and SSB along the border?
- (d) How do APF, Nepal and SSB coordinate in handling cross-border security challenges?
- (e) What are the significant challenges faced by APF, Nepal and SSB in their deployment?
- (f) How can technology, training, or policy changes contribute to better border management?
- (g) Based on your experience, what recommendations would you make to improve deployment practices of APF, Nepal and SSB?

Focus Group Discussion

- (a) How do you perceive the role of APF, Nepal and SSB in maintaining border security?
- (b) Are there sufficient regulatory frameworks governing the deployment of APF, Nepal and SSB?
- (c) In your opinion, how effective are the current deployment practices of the APF, Nepal and SSB in maintaining security along the Nepal-India border?

- (d) How would you describe the relationship between the APF, Nepal and SSB and the local communities?
- (e) What are the most common types of cross-border crimes faced by APF, Nepal and SSB, and how do they collaborate to address these issues?
- (f) What are the major challenges faced by APF, Nepal and SSB in border deployment?
- (g) What improvements would you suggest for the deployment practices of APF, Nepal and SSB to better secure the Nepal-India border?

2. List of Participant of Interview, Key Informant Interview and Focused Group Discussion

Key Informant Interview

S. N	Designation	Address	Code
1	Policy level Officer, Operation Department	APF, Nepal HQs, Ktm	KII-1
2	Policy level Officer, Border Security Department	APF, Nepal HQs, Ktm	KII-2
3	Mid-level Officer, Legal Section	APF, Nepal HQs, Ktm	KII-3
4	Senior Officer, APF, Nepal No.13 Bn	Birgunj Parsa District	KII-4
5	Officer, APF, Nepal, Proposed Coy	Pashupatinagar, Ilam	KII-5
6	Mid-level Officer , Ranikhet Frontier	Ranikhet, Uttarkhanda	KII-6
7	Field Officer ,SSB Coy , Siwantola	Purbi Champaran, India	KII-7

Participant of Interview

S. N	Designation	Address
1	Mid-level Officer, Operation Department	APF, Nepal HQs, Ktm
2	Mid-level Officer, Border Security Department	APF, Nepal HQs, Ktm
3	Mid-level, APF, Nepal No. 35 BN	Kanchanpur District
4	Mid-level Officer, District Police Office	Rautahat District
5	Mid-level Officer, APF, Nepal No.6 BN	Saptari District
6	Officer, SSB HQSs	New Delhi, India
7	Officer ,SSB Coy , Inarwa	Purbi Champaran, India
8	CIO, National Investigation Department	Kathmandu District
9	Officer, APF, Nepal BOP	Thori Parsa District
10	Officer, APF, Nepal, Custom Coy	Birgunj Parsa District
11	Junior Officer, Operation Department	APF, Nepal HQs, Ktm
12	Junior Officer,APF, Nepal No.2 COY	Pachthar District
13	Junior Officer, APF, Nepal No.2 BN	Jhapa District
14	Social Activist	Kalaiya, Bara District
15	Local Policeman	Gaddachauki , Kanchanpur
16	Local Businessman	Birgunj Metropolitan -17 , Parsa
17	Local Journalist	Birgunj, Parsa
18	Local Journalist	Sunali, Rupandehi District
19	Local Businessman	Nepalgunj ,Banke

Focused Group Discussion- 1

S. N	FGD Name	Designation	Address
1	FGD 1	Inspector	Propose Coy, Allau Parsa
2	FGD 1	Sub Inspector	Propose Coy, Allau Parsa
3	FGD 1	Assistant Sub Inspector	Propose Coy, Allau Parsa
4	FGD 1	Senior Head Constable	Propose Coy, Allau Parsa
5	FGD1	Head constable	Propose Coy, Allau Parsa
6	FGD 1	Assistant Head Constable	Propose Coy, Allau Parsa
7	FGD 1	Constable	Propose Coy, Allau Parsa

Focused Group Discussion-2

S. N	FGD Name	Designation	Address
1	FGD 2	Ward Chairman	Bahadurmai Municipality-2 Parsa
2	FGD 2	Social Worker	Birgunj Metropolitan -17 , Parsa
3	FGD 2	Local Businessman	Birgunj Metropolitan -17 , Parsa
4	FGD 2	Local Policeman	Birgunj Metropolitan -19 , Parsa
5	FGD 2	ICP Staff	ICP Birgunj, Parsa
6	FGD 2	Local Inhabitant	Birgunj Metropolitan -17 , Parsa
7	FGD 2	Local Inhabitant	Birgunj Metropolitan -17 , Parsa

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