CHAPTER-I
BSF: An overview

History of the BSF:

BSF means Border Security Force. The story of the BSF started in 1965. At the time each border state forces were unable to cope with its frontiers. These limited forces were unable to cope with the constant violations of the borders. Soon after the Chinese and Pakistan aggression in early 60's Sri L.P. Singh (the then Home Secretary) and Gen. Choudhary (the then Chief of Army Staff) realised the importance of creating a unified and organised paramilitary force to Police the countries territorial borders during peace and war. Controlled by the Centre, this force would maintain constant vigil deal with minor border problems—such as infiltrators and petty crimes and above all gain the trust and confidence of border populations.

After the concept was accepted by the State Governments and the Centre, the Border Security Force was established on 1st December, 1965. Under the inspiring leadership of Sri K.F. Rustamji—its first 'Director General', the force was raised by embodying various State Police battalions, ex-emergency Commissioned Officers and Several Direct recruits. In the beginning it emerged with just 25 Battalions but now the Border Security Force has come of age in to a formidable force of 157 Battalion in the democratic world. The BSF Primarily guards Nation's borders. The bordermen are stretched over a very long boundary right from the North-West to the western Borders and the North-East frontiers of India. To-day this force manages 6933.7 kms of Indo-Pak, Indo-Bangladesh and Indo-Myanmar Borders. It also bears enemy's first on slaught being the defacto first line of defence of India.

Border Condition Before BSF:

Raising a force could get conceptualised only after the Rann of Kutch invasion by Pakistan infiltrators which came as a prelude to 1965 Indo-Pak war. Pakistan's deliberate and calculated incursion in Kanjarkot area of Indian territory in the Rann of Kutch in Jan 1965 led
to a localised offensive by its regular Army which continued intermittently up to 15 June 1965. Border posts in this area were originally manned by SRP of Gujrat State and later on, these were reinforced by some coys of CRP and some units of Army when the actual fighting erupted on 9th April 1965 with the surprise attack by a Pakistani Brigade on Sarder Post.

**Decision by Government:**

It was in the context of those early developments that the then Prime Minister of India Sri Lal Bahadur Shastri wanted that a thorough review of security arrangement of the borders against Pakistan be carried out and if necessary a Force Controlled Centrally be established. Political leaders both at centre and border states also voiced their concern and asked for steps to strengthen border security arrangements. National Compulsions regarding a viable security apparatus for effective management of the borders was voiced from all quarters spelling out various reasons and stand points.

**Setup a Study Group:**

Early in 1965 Central Govt. decided to set up a study group to undertake a review of functioning of the State Armed Police Bns deployed along the international borders and in Jammu & Kashmir and recommended their re-organisation and streamlining to avoid multiplicity. Later in April 1965 when actual fighting in Rann of Kutch Flared up due to Pakistan's offensive action with its regular Army, it was decided by the Central Govt. of India that a special committee under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary should evaluate the entire question of leadership, training and arming/equipping Policy of the Police Bns deployed on the borders. It was also envisaged that the Committee would recommend the necessary co-ordination arrangements between the armed forces and these border Bns.

A high level meeting was held between three stalwarts of Indian Policy making i.e. the then Home Secretary Sh. L.P. Singh, Chief of Army Staff Gen. J.N. Chaudhari and the then Defence Secretary. The concept of the Border Security Force emerged through a noting initiated
by Sh. L.P. Singh to the Govt. of India.

**Noting Submitted by Sh. L.P. Singh:**

The noting submitted by Sh. L.P. Singh to the Govt. of India is pointwise given below:

(a) All the police forces to be employed on Border Security duties should come under the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs. They should be divided into three or four regional groups, each under the command of an officer of the rank of Inspector General of Police;

(b) There may be a small Central Organisation with responsibility for supervision, coordination etc.;

(c) The force should not have overaged men, and there should be careful screening of officers. The Officers taken from the police should be all volunteers and the force should draw upon officers from the Armed Forces to the extent necessary;

(d) Each battalion should have the same strength about 700 and should be armed and equipped on a standard scale;

(e) All the battalions should be given further training by training teams to be sent out from the Armed forces;

(f) There should be coordination with Defence at the Central and appropriate lower levels; to facilitate this, there should be a Senior Military Officer at the Defence H.Qrs for liaison with the head of the Border Security Force;

(g) The State Administrations would have to be kept in the Picture, and it would be necessary for the regional Inspector General to see that there is mutual understanding and cooperation between the Border Security Forces and the State authorities;

(h) The duties of the Border Security Police would include collection of intelligence, protection of life and property;
against depredations from the other side of the border, prevention of smuggling and infiltration and dealing with minor intrusions and the like. If a more serious threat develops, the Armed Forces would take charge and the Security Police would then come under the operational control of Army.

**Appointment of First DG BSF:**

After the Govt. of India had taken a formal decision to raise an organisation as envisaged in the above noting, Sh. K.F. Rustamji IP then IG Police at Bhopal was especially picked up by the then Home Minister Shri Guljari Lal Nanda to raise and be head of the Force.

**Report Submitted by Special Study Group:**

Formally submitted its report on 3rd Oct. 1965 after the cessation of hostilities with Pakistan. The study group was convinced that unification of the State Armed Police Bns with varying standard of training equipment, and leadership was national imperative. Major decisions about the formation of BSF manning the land border of India against the Pakistan had already been taken and such recommendations of study group were accepted.

**Organisation:**

To raise a force exactly tailored to the requirements with the Primary role of BSF, both in peace and in war, of giving support to the Army either in the holding role or in dealing with the infiltrators or in helping out other duties. Sh. K.F. Rustamji appointed DG BSF and the men from State Armed Police, the Army Commissioned Officers, the Direct Entry men, the technical people from Universities and Audit and Accounts people all looked to be made for each other to make the Force a versatile one.

**Need on Modification in Function:**

Earlier the border Armed Police Bns had been performing the duties of Border Security under the Control of respective State Govt. Now the role needed to be formalized for this new border police force
so that it could build an operational perspective for its peace time functioning on the border.

Study Group Recommended Tasks Initially:

Recommended following tasks initially—

(a) In normal times the Border Police Force should be expected to give a sense of Security to the people living in border areas.

(b) Prevent trans border crimes.

(c) Prevent unauthorised entry into or exit from the Indian territory.

(d) To prevent activities of smugglers.

Based on above tasks later on following role and task were decided for the force.

**ROLE**

The role of BSF is "Security of the borders of India and matters connected therewith" (Auth-BSF Act Sec-4).

**TASKS**

**Peace Time Tasks**:

(a) Promote sense of security among people living in the border areas.

(b) Prevent trans border crimes, unauthorised entry in to and exit. (Infiltration and Exfiltration).

(c) Prevent smuggling and any other illegal activity (trans border). (Auth-BSF Rule 15).

**War Time Tasks**:

(a) Holding ground in less threatened sectors.

(b) Protection of VA's/VP's particularly airfields against enemy commandos/Paratroopers or raids.
(c) Providing extension to the flanks of main defence line by holding of strong points in conjunction with other units.

(d) Limited aggressive actions against paramilitary or regular forces.

(e) Performing special tasks connected with Int. Incl. raids.

(f) Acting as guide in an area of responsibility where routes are known.

(g) Maintenance of law and order in enemy territory administered under the control of the Army.

(h) Provision of escorts.

(i) Guarding of prisoners of war cages.

(j) Assistance in control of refugees.

(k) Anti infiltration duties in specified areas.

(Auth-Govt. of India letter No. 20/130/67/BSI. of 5 April 1968).

Prime Minister’s Letter to Rustamji DG BSF:

This letter written by Smt. Indira Gandhi Prime Minister of India "As the First line of our defence the BSF had to bear the immediate brunt of the enemy on slaught. The manner in which they faced enemy fire and the support they gave to the Army has played a crucial role in our ultimate success."

Training:

As per the task given to the BSF very hard tactful training is require. Some glimpses of the training are displayed in photography from photo No twenty seven to thirty one.

Vigilance:

BSF is vigilant all the time on border and in other areas they are on the role of IS duty, Cl role or Al duty. Practicability of vigilance duties are shown through photography in the photos displayed
VIJIL AND ALERT FOR THE PROTECTION OF BORDER, PREVENTION OF INFLUX AND BORDER CRIME FOR THE PROSPERITY OF BORDER POPULATION AND PEACE OF THE COUNTRY. A SCENE OF A BORDERMAN IN ALERT POSITION ON EU IN KASHMIR VALLEY.

Vigil on the line of control

BORDERMEN WITH BRM IN KASHMIR ON BORDER OUT POST FOR EVALUATION OF THE PRESENT SITUATION AND ITS CONTROL.
PATTROLLING BY CAMEL IN GUJRAT RAJASTHAN BORDER AREA. IT IS REQUIRE TO CURB ON ARMS SMUGGLING AND CROSS BORDER CRIME. TO SEAL THE COMPLETE RAJASTHAN-GUJRAT BORDER WITHOUT PATTROLLING IS A DIFFICULT TASK.
Vigil Round the Clock
Nothing Left to Chance.
Border Out Post for the
Vigilance of Enemy and Prevention
of Border Crime

Routine Search on the
Movement of Civilian
In Kashmir Valley.

Patrolling in
Desert.

Alert Border Man
In Kashmir For Vigilance.
Vigilant Borderman scans areas in the border
An alert Prahan

Guarding the vast stretch of desert

Alertness in the loneliness of Thar Desert of Rajasthan

Mounted Gun with Action
VIGILANCE BY PATROLLING NO. 7

PETROLING IN THE FENCING AREA OF PUNJAB

PETROLING ON HORSE MOUNT FOR VERIFICATION OF BORDER PILLAR AND MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL BORDER

FOR THE VIGILANCE OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY AND GUARD DUTY OF CAMP IN KASHMIR

DURING THE OPERATIONAL MOVEMENT AGAINST TERRORIST IN JAMMU AREA

BSF ops in Jammu
VIGILANCE BY MANNING IN DESERT BORDER

ALERT AND ACTIVE EVEN IN THE LONELY, HARD, TOUGH AND WITHOUT LIFE
AND VERY EXTREME AND HOSTILE CLIMATE OF THEIR DESERT BORDER OF Jaisalmer.

FOR THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF BORDER AND NATION.

(No. 8)

Patrolling the desert – a hard task for hardy men.
For the maintenance of peace and protection of border and prevention of border crime. Also for representing the integrity of nation.

A scene of bunker with CP tower of Kristian Border.

Vigilance

Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao with a BSF widow's child on his lap when the newly weds met him.
VIGILANCE

PHARMACY ON TOP TOWER SITUATED NEAR THE INDO-PAK BORDER IN KASHMIR GIVING THE MESSAGE TO NATION, TO SLEEP WITH SOUND SLEEP, SO LONG AS I AM HERE.
(Rahm) is alert and attentive though it is extreme cold climate of snow belt area of Kashmir. Although he has tent facility for the rest in snow belt area where temperature goes much below zero degree but has high morale. To complete the given task to him.
It is the Mahari who will develop the alternative of observing the enemy activity or the activity of those who behave like enemy; by creating or in the trees/tower or by beating. He has the training for tremendous adaptability.
Border Guarding - A Formidable Challenge

Bordermen climbing OP tower

Unarmed Bordermen
Vigilance by patrolling and static duty in Rajashah, Punjab and Tripura border area. He is so courageous and fearless, so agile and has tremendous power of adaptability which make him very suitable for any climate and area. On behalf of his strength and high sacrifice, our borders are safe at other part of the country.
VIGILANCE ON BORDERS

The movement of smaller groups and killing the militants.
Alert Borderman scan areas before him in Kashmir. Culprits and contraband both in BSF net.

An Bangladeshi border scene of capturing the smuggler with contraband.

Water Wing BSF Patrolling in Sea.

BSF Patrolling in Tripura.

Patrolling on International Bomb of Bangladesh in Tripura.
SPECTACULAR OPS - BSF SEIZES GOLD AND CURRENCY IN SAMBA SECTOR

View of the impressive seizure

Water patrol in Gujar

Acquirement by seizing not only arms and ammunition but by gold and currency also in Kashmir. New a days trend has been changed. Terrorist carry gold with them for their day today requirement. Gold can be use in any country as a currency or that nation.
UMGs and AK rifles seized in the valley

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<tr>
<td>Contraband</td>
<td>- I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heroine</td>
<td>- Rs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charas</td>
<td>- Rs.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>- Rs.2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>-</td>
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ACHIEVEMENT OF SEIZING DIFFERENT KIND SOPHISTICATED ARMS AND AP MINES.
It is operational achievement route for the narcotics is the Rajasthan. ISI has share in it.
Also there is seizure of rockets launcher which are used by the terrorist for the destruction and killing.
OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT - 151 BN BSF

Shri J S Oberoi, 2IC /Officiating Commandant, 151 BN BSF and his troops with the body of the killed militant Afif Din of HM Outfit and recovered arms and ammunition at village Nakh Pathei of Pir Panjal Ranges in Jammu & Kashmir on September 25, 2000.

OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT - 51 BN BSF
There is a great achievement by killing of terrorist. It is the job of officers and jawans with the dead body of mill...
View of sophisticated weapons seized and the gallant Bordermen who made it possible

BSF FOILED ISI BID TO SMUGGLE ARMS/AMM -
BIGGEST EVER SEIZURE OF PISTOLS IN
RAJASTHAN

Sh. M P Singh, Comdt 14 Bn BSF with Naka party of 'F'
coy and recovered arms
SEIZURE

OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT IN WHICH
SEIZED VARIOUS KIND OF ARMS, AMMUNITION, NARCOTICS IN DIFFERENT
FRONTIER.

INTERCEPTED BANGLADESHI
BORDERMAN IS ON WATCH BY PATROLLING
IN SEA IN WEST BENGAL COVERING
BANGLADESH BORDER.

Patrolling along water channel in West Beng
A big catch of very sensitive arms and ammunition with 160 recovered in anti-terrorist operation in Kashmir Valley.
Rocket launchers seize arms and ammunition from the terrorists.

Seized from terrorist, after encounter.

Rocket launcher seized from terrorists.
DIFFERENT TRAINING EVENTS ARE ORGANIZING THE BORDER MEN SUITABLE FOR THE FIGHT IN DIFFERENT SITUATION CREATED BY ENEMY. TOUGHNESS, SUITABILITY FOR THE JOB AND CONFIDENCE.
THIS IS LIKE A MANUFACTURING FACTORY AND IN THIS PROCESS THE RAW MATERIALS ARE YOUNG RECRUITS ENROLLED IN TRAINING CENTER. THE TRAINING LIKE CUT FROM TRAINING CENTER TO YOUNG, ENERGETIC SOLDIER READY TO MEET ANY CHALLENGE AT ENEMY. THESE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF PRACTICAL EVENT AND HE IS REQUIRED TO PASS THROUGH ALL THESE.

THE PART OF THE TRAINING CAN NOT BE COMPLETED WITHOUT DETERMINATION, HIGH DISCIPLINE AND HIGH ENDURANCE AND PATIENCE.

Borderman during an exercise preparing for assault
DIFFERENT EVENTS ARE ENVISAGED AND DEPICTED FROM TOP TO BOTTOM.
IT GIVES THE FEELING OF THE ASSESSMENT HOW TOUGH AND DIFFICULT THIS TRAINING THROUGH WHICH EVERY SOLDIER IS REQUIRED TO PASS THROUGH.
No 30

To take part in 26 January parade Delhi and try to be in mainstream by taking part in national activities of various nature including, taking part in 26 January parade. Matter is not only the participation but also to create the charm by presenting Camel Band and Camel Contingency as a unique specialist.
IT IS AN EXAMPLE ON WHICH NATION HAS PRIDE.
through photo No one to seventeen.

**Achievement** :

(a) Before 1980.

(b) After 1980.

(a) **Before 1980** :

BSF faced the 1971 Indo-Pak war which was an acid test for BSF. Befittingly the force rose to the occasion and fought shoulder to shoulder along with the Army men. Not only was the unprecedented influx of refugees who had streamed into India from erstwhile East Pakistan, was managed most effectively with great restraint and tact by the BSF men, but the force also fought pitched battles on the eastern borders with Pakistan Army and Paramilitary Forces deployed in erstwhile East Pakistan under the overall Command of the Army. A number of defensive and offensive actions against Pakistan regular and irregular troops were fought. The BSF besides securing the captured areas also carried out a number of mopping-up operations along with the Army. A few BSF units made deep penetrations to liberate large areas entirely on their own.

On the western front, the force fought operations along with the Army and also independently in J and K, Punjab, Rajasthan and Rann of Kutch areas. The BSF not only foiled all enemy attempts to intrude and infiltrate into the Kashmir valley but also captured a large area from the enemy, North of Tuliel Valley (Niru). In Poonch and Rajouri areas it effectively assisted the Army in preventing infiltration and held some important pickets, repulsing several enemy attacks. In Chhamb area, it bore the brunt of the initial attack of Pak Army and subsequently fought against the enemy shoulder to shoulder with Army.

In Rajasthan sector also the BSF played a pivotal role. It captured a large chunk of enemy territory in Shahgarh bulge and played decisive role in Ghotaru and famous battle of Longewala. In Kutch it operated in territory of its own within over all operational command of Army. It captured enemy's territory Chadbet, Nagar Parkar and Virawa.
(b) After 1980:

In an environment charged with uncertainty where terrorism, aggression and Communal Disharmony raise daily alarms, BSF uses its inherent strengths to ease and placate tensions with characteristic restraint and tact.

With an enduring tradition and distinct culture behind him, every borderman understands that India and its mainland are only as safe as the border lands are secure. To-day as never before the integrity of the country is being threatened on several fronts. The troubled borders and their hinterlands are heavily defended by BSF units. In Punjab, Kashmir and Jammu BSF's day and night Patrol are reassuring presence, representing security for the civilians and the local authorities. The force has intensified all its activities; augmented its units; fenced and fortified vulnerable border segments and improved round the clock vigilance with modern devices.

In recent years smuggling of narcotics, arms and ammunition has assumed threatening proportions BSF specially honed skills and highly trained dog squads are primarily responsible for exposing border crimes and recovering large drug and ammunition hauls.

By simple definition BSF peace time duties cover the three areas of border security, internal security and assistance during natural calamities.

In times of war BSF's intimate knowledge of the border, its problems and people becomes an invaluable blue print of information for the Army. It is entrusted with diverse duties ranging from special tasks and protection of vital installations to guarding prisoners and maintaining law and order.

In April 1990, BSF joined the UN Police monitor in Namibia. Practical Photographs in support of achievements are displayed from photograph no sixteen to twenty six.

Achievement/Seizure in Brief:

Achievement in brief are as follows:-

(a) By killing a large number of terrorist/infiltrators.
(b) Apprehended a large number of extremist/terrorist/outfits.

(c) Large number of terrorists are made to surrendered.

(d) Large number of Bangladesh Nationals intercepted.

(e) Large number of arms and ammunition is captured/recovered, including grenades, rockets, bombs and IED.

(f) Explosives seized in tonnes.

(g) Contraband goods seized with the value of billions.

(h) Large number of BSF personnel lost their life in encounter with terrorist and enemy.

(j) Very large number of BSF Personnel wounded and handicapped in encounter with terrorist.

(k) Day and night busy in maintaining peace and integrity on border.

(l) BSF is doing excellent job in IS duty, CI role and AI role which has been appreciated by all.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example</th>
<th>year 2001</th>
<th>year 2000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Militants killed</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Extremist/Militants apprehended</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>10094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Extremist/Militants Surrendered</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Bangladeshi Nationals intercepted</td>
<td>6595</td>
<td>6751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e) BSF Personnel Killed</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(f) BSF Personnel Injured</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(g) Arms Captured/Recovered</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(h) Ammunition Captured/Recovered</td>
<td>44210</td>
<td>51193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item</td>
<td>Recovered</td>
<td>Recovered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grenades Captured/Recovered</td>
<td>756</td>
<td>751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockets/Bombs/Captured/Recovered</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IED Captured/Recovered</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explosives (in kilograms)</td>
<td>16188</td>
<td>274381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contraband goods (in Rupees)</td>
<td>387311474</td>
<td>369336558</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Some photographs for viewing the operational seizure/achievements are shown in the photos displayed from photograph no sixteen to twenty six.

**Recruitments in BSF:**

BSF has its own recruitment policy for the selection of personnel on different post as per the requirement and Q.R. following are the recruitments:

**i) For class fourth:**
- Sweeper
- Cook
- Water Carrier
- Kahar
- Barber
- Washerman and
- Gardner/Mali

**ii) For Trades man:**
- Carpenter
- Cobbler and
- Tailor
(iii) For Constable:
- Constable general duty
- Constable operator and
- Constable Driver.

(iv) Recruitment for:
- Radio operator
- Radio mechanic
- Fitter and
- Armourer

(v) Recruitment for ministerial staff:
- Daftari
- LDC
- UDC
- PA/Steno/PS
- Cashier/Accountant

(vi) Recruitment for Direct Platoon Commander:

(vii) Recruitment for Officer:
- Assistant Commandant General duty
- Assistant Commandant technical

(viii) Recruitment for Medical Staff:
- Medical Officer
- Pharmacist

(ix) Recruitment for Engineering branch/works:
- Officer and
- Others
(x) Recruitment for Air Wing:
- Officer and
- Others

(xi) Recruitment for Law Branch:
- Officers and
- Others

(xii) Recruitment for audit and account division

(xiii) Recruitment for Architect

**Rank Structure in BSF:**

Hierarchy of ranks in BSF is as follows:

- Constable
- Head Constable (HC)
- Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI)
- Sub Inspector/Platoon Commander (SI/PC)
- Inspector
- Assistant Commandant (AC)
- Deputy Commandant (DC)
- Second in Command (2 I/C)
- Commandant (CO)
- Additional Deputy Inspector General (ADIG)
- Inspector General (IG)
- Additional Director General (ADG)
- Director General (DG)