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Evaluation of Military Diplomacy Influence on Physical Security in Dhobley, Jubaland, Somalia

By

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Abstract

This study sought to evaluate the influence of military diplomacy on physical security in Dhobley Jubaland Somalia. Dhobley is one of the bases for the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF). Understanding the role of military diplomacy necessitate a study of officers and service personnel serving under African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and humanitarian personnel involved in Dhobley, Jubaland. Military diplomacy has become part of the global military framework in countries such as China, UK, USA, and South Africa as countries endeavor to use the least intrusive means for achieving physical security. The study focused on determining the influence of negotiations, military liaison, and mediation on the pursuit of physical security in Somalia. The specific objectives of the study included an assessment of influence of military negotiation, liaison, and mediation in Dhobley, Jubaland Somalia and its influence on the achievement of physical security in Somalia. Sheikh Ahmed Madobe, leader of the former Ras Kamboni brigade had to work with AMISOM to weaken and remove the alshabaab from Jubaland. The research further aimed to determine the influence of AMISOM's mediation, field liaison, and negotiation as a factor in elimination of political and humanitarian crises in Dhobley Jubaland, Somalia. The study was anchored in the theories of military diplomacy, deterrence, and rational action, which were used to evaluate the basic approach in the operations surrounding diplomatic efforts in Dhobley, Jubaland Somalia. A mixed methodology approach was used, as it is the most appropriate method, which comprised of a survey and qualitative interviews of respondents involved in AMISOM operations in Somalia. Stratified random sampling methods was used to select participants from the target population of 2,000 military officers, 26,000 service members while convenience sampling was used to select 100 humanitarian personnel from agencies who have participated in Jubaland since inception. A census of the military officers was carried out. Data was collected through self-administered from 20 military officers and 394 service personnel who have been involved in the AMISOM operations in Dhobley, Jubaland Somalia. Interview schedules were used to gather opinions and perspectives from 100 humanitarian personnel. Quantitative data analysis was done through IBM-SPSS version 25. Inferential and descriptive statistics were used. Thematic analysis facilitated qualitative analysis of qualitative data from interview responses. Data was presented through graphs, summary tables, and charts. The research evaluates the influence of military diplomacy and the capacity to use this military diplomacy to achieve national interests of Somalia and other regional member states. Findings illustrate that military diplomacy influence positively on physical security in Dhobley, Jubaland, Somalia. The study recommends that the government should change physical security doctrine in line with cases of terrorism as is in emerging trends and as evidence by diplomacy.

Key words: Military diplomacy, negotiation, mediation, liaison, physical security

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Background to the Study

The aim of this study was on the evaluation of influence of military diplomacy on physical security in Dhobley, Jubaland, Somalia. The research will investigate the influence of exclusive use of military negotiations, liaison, and the consolidation of the physical security within the section under KDF command. The role of diplomacy on physical security is to reduce the negative effects of conflicts. The prevention process seeks to strengthen the strategic stability and sustainability of peace. Military diplomacy dates to the Napoleonic era but has undergone evolution through the Cold War period to cement the potential of non-violent military relations (Richardson, 2011). The complex interdependence of nations necessitates forging of defense diplomacy as a method of meeting mutual national interests.

Jubaland shapes the military diplomacy of AMISON in Somalia. Jubaland is Somalia's diverse, southern-most section, linked by the course of the Juba River. and inhabited by Somali bantu regarded as minority. Al-Shabaab' effects reduced, and KDF began to facilitate the formation of transitional government in Doble. Despite these efforts, Dhobley has experienced attacks and frequent hostility from locals to the extent of masking the real effect of military diplomacy. Frequent attacks in Dhobley, Jubaland, Somalia, for example, El Ade and Afmadow downplay the efforts used by the KDF to effect physical security against the longstanding effects of Al-Shabaab. The occasional attacks against AMISOM's presence show lack of definite way of ending the longstanding crisis between Al-Shabaab and Somalia government (Otieno, 2015). The ongoing operations cast doubt on the success of the military-diplomatic efforts aimed at effecting strategic foreign interests of both Kenya and Somali.

The assimilation of Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) into the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) operations required a new framework to accomplish the goals of supporting transitional government, execute national physical security plan, training and assist the Somali security forces to create a secure environment for the citizens (Willmot, Mamiya, Sheeran & Weller, 2016). KDF pursues insurgents within the sector, which is headquartered in Dhobley. The integration of the KDF into the AMISOM occurred in 2012 following the ratification of UN Security Resolution of 2036 (Williams, 2018). KDF endeavors to battle militants of Al-Shabaab by using diplomacy as opposed to the overly used organized attacks (Williams, 2018). Sheikh Ahmed Madobe is one leader of the Ras Kamboni brigade, who shapes the war agenda as well as diplomacy in Somalia. The troops focus on using the growing effects of military diplomacy to advance negotiations and create points of concessions between the warring clans.

Clans have exacerbated the war in Somalia over the years and could be the primary drive of military diplomacy. The clans include Darod/Harti, Darod/Marehan and Hawiye. The clans play different roles. The role of dominant clans in Kismayu such as Darod/Harti, Darod/Marehan and Hawiye is to control the narrative and challenge the transitional government. On the other hand, the clans outside Kismayu such as Darod/Ogaden, Jareer or Bantu have influence on the course of war and economic control in Somalia.

The net assessment of the AMISOM has shown mixed results of the program where some practitioners have claimed misplacement of the program as well as ill-conceived objectives

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(Williams, 2018). However, not all the tools deployed by AMISOM have proven ineffective considering Somalia formed its first government since the beginning of civil war. AMISOM operations required a new framework to accomplish the goals of supporting transitional government, execute national security plan, training and assist the Somali security forces to create a secure environment for the citizens.

Statement of the Problem

Operation Linda Nchi led to the entry of KDF to Somalia in 2011, but its efforts did not fully accomplish initial mission following assimilation into AMISOM. Operation Linda Nchi started October 16, 2011 after kidnapping of two Spanish women on October 13, 2011 and ended in May 31, 2012, a period of seven months, two weeks and one day. The operation was limited as it did not create a buffer zone as was the plan to prevent entry of Al Shabaab in to Kenyan soil. Another issue was the heavy logistical issues that arose subsequently that were difficult to meet, so Kenya had to be under AMISOM umbrella to sustain its mission operation. Military incursions were organized, Al-Shabaab' effects reduced, and KDF began to facilitate the formation of transitional government in Dhobley.

Frequent attacks in Dhobley, Jubaland, Somalia, for example, El Ade and Afmadow downplay the efforts used by the KDF to influence on physical security against the longstanding influence of Al-Shabaab. The ongoing operations shows need to apply military diplomacy to achieve the success of the military-diplomatic efforts aimed at influencing strategic foreign interests of both Kenya and Somali (Otieno, 2015).

Therefore, this study will evaluate the influence of military diplomacy on the achievement of physical security in Dhobley, Jubaland, Somalia. Military diplomacy works in military operation where it creates a cooperating and friendly community around the area of influence. It helps to separate the civilian from supporting the militant group through civilian-military (CIMIC) cooperation.

Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study are to;

- i. Evaluate the influence of military liaison operations on physical security in Dhobley Jubaland, Somalia
- ii. Assess the influence of military negotiations on physical security in Dhobley, Jubaland, Somalia
- iii. Establish the influence of military mediation on physical security Dhobley, Juba land, Somalia

Research Question

1. What is the influence of military diplomacy on the achievement of physical security in Dhobley, Jubaland, Somalia?

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Specific Research Questions

- i. What is the influence of military liaison operations on physical security in Dhobley Jubaland, Somalia?
- ii. How have military negotiations influenced physical security in Dhobley Jubaland, Somalia?
- iii. What is the influence of military mediation on physical security Dhobley, Juba land, Somalia?

Rationale for the Study

The vital reason for undertaking this study is to understand the influence and progress of KDF through AMISOM in restoring physical security in Somalia. Military diplomacy should complement the foreign relations strategies deployed to maintain regional stability. On the other hand, the consequences of the conflict have infiltrated Kenya and caused uncertainty on national peace and physical security. The curriculum requires an understanding of military diplomacy and its relationship with physical security due to the rising regional as well as global conflicts. The curriculum sets out the objective of determining the extent the use of military strategies in solving physical security challenges. The research hopes to establish a diplomacy-based understanding of its role in physical security affairs. The diverse diplomatic strategies such as negotiations, mediation, and liaison should be understood from the perspective of military operations within and beyond the study area.

Significance of the Study

Academia, scholars, and military personnel will benefit from the research that will contend that military diplomacy expedites the achievement of physical security in Dhobley, Jubaland, Somalia. The research will provide the role of concept guided by its implementation in Somalia. Regionalization has overcome global politics and crisis facing established organizations such as the UN in the diplomacy and peacekeeping missions (Böhmelt, 2010). Military diplomacy could be the ultimate tool for achieving physical security given that negotiations are now bordering regime maintenance, economic sustenance, cohesion, and trans-border security including control on Kismayu port and strategic regions in Somalia (Weiss, 2005). Nations are more interlocked than before, which necessitates the need to establish the role of using diplomacy in the achievement of physical security in Somalia. Many countries are interested in the stability of Somalia, for world peace.

East Africa, as well as Horn of Africa, will understand the role of using diplomacy as opposed to war-oriented processes to influence on physical security objectives. The study will determine the influence of diplomacy in the accomplishment of physical security mission in Somalia and in the larger East Africa as well as the Horn of Africa. The research will explore a non-military alternative in the form of diplomacy that should have minimal political, social, economic, and humanitarian challenges in Somalia and its neighbours. The study seeks to demonstrate to the regional institutions and global factions on physical security on the essence of using soft power to achieve regional and global physical security agenda.

Scope of the Study

The study was conducted in School of Infantry, Isiolo, Kenya. The data was collected between April and July 2019. Majority of officers and service personnel who participated in Dhobley, Jubaland, Somalia, report to the college for training and lesson learnt. The study focused on Dhobley, Jubaland, Somalia alone other than other joint operations taking place in other AMISOM sectors in Somalia. The study was involved on both humanitarian agencies based in Nairobi, who have taken part in the AMISOM operations as opposed to having knowledge about the pursuit of

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physical security in Somalia. Jubaland State consists of Gedo, Middle Juba and Lower Juba, which are areas adjacent to the Kenya-Somalia border and have different dynamics due to access to Kenya. AL shabaab operations in Jubaland had a direct effect to Kenya borders in North Eastern. The areas have not experienced much suffering compared to other parts such as Bay and Bakool regions.

Additionally, the research collected data and analysis was done related to the liaison, negotiations, and mediation processes of diplomacy and their influence on the achievement of physical security in Somalia. The data collection and analysis were between April 2019 and July 2019.

Review of Related Literature

The role of military diplomacy in the pursuit of security has been explored in literature extensively. The evolution of the soft power of the military intervention through negotiations, as opposed to armed forces, has been the subject of academicians and practitioners in the security sector. Akpınar (2013) found that Turkey's key to peacebuilding in Somalia was through military and humanitarian diplomacy. The multichannel process fostered interest and power whole giving Somalia a platform to advance its economy particularly in the conflict zones. Rupiya and Moyo (2015) acknowledged the challenges of prioritizing civil-military relations without emphasis on humanitarian actions in the conflict zones in Somalia by the KDF.

Physical security designates the absence of bombs, barricades, and bodies (Fluri, 2010). According to Fluri (2010), there should be geopolitical and geo-economic formations' balance to prevent the continuation of conflict. The state and private physical security formations should assume their duties well to protect civilians against conflict. The review was based on the experiences of Afghanistan conflict and Afghan civilian citizens. Graham (2011) viewed physical security in terms of preparation and mitigation against war through the urbanization of the military organs. Additionally, the government should change physical security doctrine in the era of recurring cases of terrorism.

According to Storey (2012), military diplomacy entails using military organs to pursue foreign policy and physical security objectives. The research utilized the case of China's relations with Southeast Asian countries to demonstrate the way diplomacy creates opportunities as well as risks for a country. The view of Storey (2012) is that military interventions have the capacity to build cooperative relations to achieve peace, but they should be founded on transparency and mutual regional interests. The study provided a case study of rising power to define military diplomacy but another analysis of developed country, U.S, showed an activity anchored on superiority and adversary compliance (Jakobsen, 2011). The argument of Jakobsen (2011) was anchored on military coercion, but it addressed the policy problems, which the U.S continues to pursue in foreign soils.

The sustainability of military operations under AMISOM was imperative. The control of Al-Shabaab was dwindling. The mission continues to strengthen the control of the Somali national security forces so that AU and UN can withdraw the soldiers as well as police after the achievement of peace and stability (AFP, 2018). AU focuses on peace and stability, which has been the drive behind the operations in Somalia (Williams, 2017). The military intervention aimed at defeating Al-Shabaab and restoring the state of democracy while accommodating the divergent interests of the clans. Although the involvement of six troop-contributing countries (TCCs) is little compared to the 54 members of the AU, AMISOM has managed to create a platform where Somalia can regain its institutional, political, as well as economic foothold in the Horn of Africa (Anderson & McKnight, 2014).

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Operation Linda Nchi and formation of AMISOM shows the potential of military interventions. Diplomacy has emerged as another key component for confronting and dealing with regional security concerns. The interventions should deal with warlords such as Barre Hirale rival clan allied with the Somali Federal Government (SFG). The mission responds to the the origins of Al-Shabaab too. Al-Shabaab originated from the Islamic Courts Union (ICU) in 2006 following defeat by Transitional Federal Government and Ethiopian military allies. Birkett (2013) recognizes the legality of KDF and AMISOM's presence in Dhobley Jubaland under the *jus ad bellum* framework.

Jubaland is a key security concern for the diplomacy despite being the breadbasket of Somalia. According to Mwangi (2016), the buffer zone created political and security zone amidst establishment of powerful states in Somalia. However, the buffer zone generates majority of the national and transnational risks, which downplay achievement of state capacity and autonomy through AMISOM's help. Moe (2018) describes Jubaland as a "grey zone" in the pursuit of peace and pacification as insurgents target institutions seeking to restore stability in Somalia. Overall, further research sufficed to understand the influence of military diplomacy on physical security in Dhobley, Jubaland given the persisting local security challenges.

Methodology and Design

The research used a mixed methodology. The methodology involved a survey and case study research designs. The research involved a systematic empirical investigation of a given phenomenon (Salkind, 2010). Undertaking a mixed methodology provided the study with greater objectivity and accuracy following the analysis of the quantitative and qualitative results (Savela, 2018). Furthermore, the research prevented personal bias that is associated with other methods such as qualitative research. Mixed methods design incorporates both quantitative and qualitative methods (Teddlie & Tashakkori, 2009). The method allowed explanation, interpretation, and exploration of the phenomenon from different angles. The research build on the theoretical perspective of military diplomacy and physical security so that conclusions or generalizations can be made through the empirical data gathered in the study.

The mixed method research was chosen due to its core strengths. The method offsets the weaknesses associated with each respective method (Teddlie & Tashakkori, 2009). The mixed methods design considered independent, dependent, and intervening variables (Taylor & Søndergaard, 2017). The independent variable in the study is military. A qualitative interview was deployed in the study as part of the qualitative approach of the study. The method was to help triangulate the data collected through the quantitative approach.

Research Findings and Discussion

To achieve the research objective, the discussion aimed at respondent's answers chosen in the tables provided where they were asked questions based on the three factors of military diplomacy and were to tick appropriately their level of agreement or disagreement on the questions about the three objectives; military liaison, negotiation and military mediation as shown below. Their responses helped in findings, analysis and recommendations.

Military Diplomacy Operations

To achieve the study objective, the respondents were asked to tick appropriately their level of agreement or disagreement each statement in table below. They were asked to use a scale of 1-5 where 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree

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Table 4.7: Military diplomacy Operations

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Variance
KDF has emphasized the collaboration with civilian and humanitarian agencies to pursue support operations and reduce furtherance of the civil crisis	315	4.0317	.82107	.674
Military Liaison with the Somali National Security Forces has enabled KDF to push Al-Shabaab out of Dhobley, Jubaland, Somalia to secure the local population and establish dominance	315	4.3397	.73288	.537
Establishment of accountable local governance institutions has been important in linking the government with civilians and securing mission area of Dhobley, Jubaland, Somalia	313	4.0831	.54255	.294
AMISOM prioritization on military intelligence to stabilize Dhobley, Jubaland, Somalia or ensure stability has been important	315	4.5079	.63026	.397
The coordination of military intelligence with civilians has been effective in reducing sabotage	314	4.5100	.59384	.353
Valid N (listwise)	314			

Source: Field data (2019)

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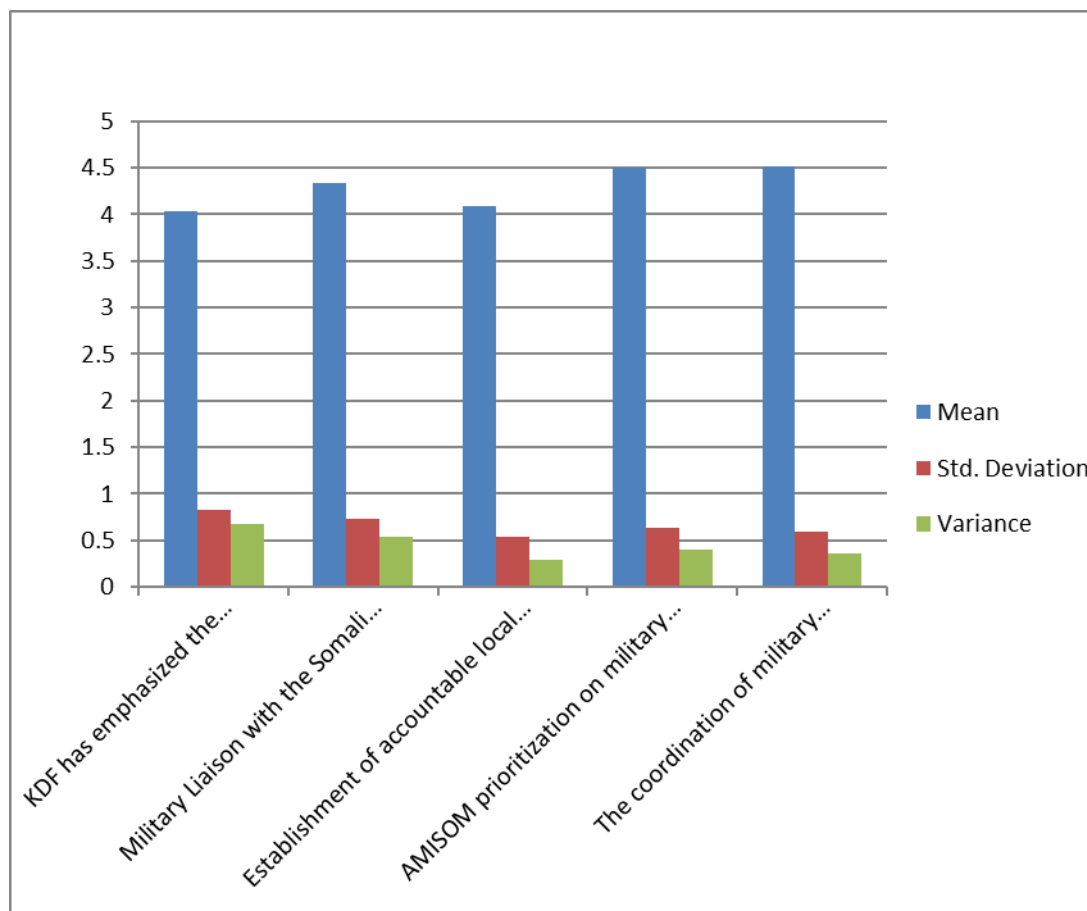


Figure 4.6: Military diplomacy Operations

Source: Field data (2019)

In determining military diplomacy operations, mean, variance and standard deviation were calculated as shown in the figure 4.6 and table 4.7 above. Each statement was rated independently to enable the researcher to identify how military diplomacy operations influence physical security in Dhobley, Jubaland. Therefore the mean, standard deviation and variance for each statement was concluded in which, KDF has emphasized the collaboration with civilian and humanitarian agencies to pursue support operations and reduce furtherance of the civil crisis is 4.03, 0.83 and 0.67 respectively Military Liaison with the Somali National Security Forces has enabled KDF to push Al-Shabaab out of Dhobley, Jubaland, Somalia to secure the local population and establish dominance is 4.34, 0.73 and 0.53, Establishment of accountable local governance institutions has been important in linking the government with civilians and securing mission area of Dhobley, Jubaland, Somalia is 4.08, 0.54 and 0.29, AMISOM prioritization on military intelligence to stabilize Dhobley, Jubaland, Somalia or ensure stability has been important is 4.50, 0.63 and 0.39 while The coordination of military intelligence with civilians has been effective in reducing sabotage is 4.51, 0.59 and 0.35. Since most of the statements have a mean between 4.00 – 4.50 meaning respondents agreed with the statements, it can therefore be interpreted that military diplomacy operations positively influence physical security in Dhobley, Jubaland. This finding is in with Thompson (2009) who reported the success of military operations in Kashmir following liaison between the armies and civilians. The finding also in agreement with Onditi and Okoth

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(2017) noted a significant reduction in crisis due to the liaison-based approach of peace and support operations (PSOs) in post-AU.

The findings are also corroborated by the Military diplomacy theory which states that efforts made by the AMISOM in Dhobley, Jubaland, Somalia (Curran, 2016) had influenced positively to physical security in Dhobley. The military units of KDF have been assigned the duties of solving the longstanding problems between clans, which have created the basis for Al-Shabaab's prominence.

Regression

The study employed a multivariate regression analysis to test the joint influence of all the independent variables on the dependent variables. The findings of the multivariate regression are presented in a table. The findings further showed an $R^2=0.600$ which also implied that independent variables accounted for 60% of the variation in physical security when other factors held constant.

Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was employed to test the goodness of fit of the model used to fit the independent variables and dependent variable. The results presented revealed F-statistic = 27.482, with $p=0.000$ which was less 0.05. These findings implied that model had a good fit which further confirmed that the three factors were a good predictor of physical security, such that the use of military diplomacy had a positive influence on physical security.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study is a step forward in understanding the influence of military diplomacy on physical security in Dhobley, Jubaland, Somalia. Majority of the respondents indicated that the military liaison operations influenced positively physical security in Dhobley as most agree as the findings show that most mean score were between 4.00 and 5.00. The findings revealed that respondents who participated in the research agreed to the mentioned variables of military negotiations influenced positively physical security in Dhobley since most had a mean score ranging between 4.00 and 4.50. Findings depicts that the military mediation influenced positively on physical security in Dhobley. Findings illustrate that military diplomacy influence positively on physical security in Dhobley, Jubaland, Somalia.

In conclusion the findings agree with Storey (2012) who argues that military interventions have the capacity to build cooperative relations to achieve peace. Findings also confirms Henke (2017) view that military diplomacy as the avenue for establishing multilateral military coalitions other than coercing its target nations. This study concluded that three variables (military liaison operations, military negotiations and military mediation) would influence on a positive way the physical security in Dhobley when employed in Somalia.

Recommendation

The practice of military diplomacy should be entrenched in operations other than using the attritional means. The practice of military diplomacy should be a practice for any peaceful resolution. The government should change physical security doctrine to align to diplomatic means in the era of recurring cases of terrorism. The research recommends that military diplomacy factors like liaison, negotiation and mediation bring about physical security and should be employed in operations. The study further recommends that under developed countries like Somalia should borrow a leaf from physical security efforts evident in the developed countries like U.S. The rise of terrorism means a war of the minds and therefore the security departments should learn to use the military diplomacy to win the hearts and minds of the society involved in order to support them in the fight against radicalization and terrorism. Military diplomacy means winning and changing people. There is need to undertake similar studies in different higher learning institutions to

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ascertain how other factors influence on physical security. The study provides a basis for other studies outside physical especially on areas of espionage/ threat to information and its effects on security of Somalia. The study further recommends that military diplomacy is a crisis de-escalation method that prevents the youths of the affected communities from being brain washed into terrorism and its activities. Diplomacy being an all-inclusive method must bring all parties to the table and from there conducts a joint, intelligence driven operation against Alshabaab.

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