

**EFFECTS OF DEPLOYMENT STRESS ON FAMILIES OF MILITARY PERSONNEL.A
CASE STUDY OF KENYAN TROOPS IN SOMALIA.**

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed at establishing the impact of deployment of the military personnel on their children and families. It is a case study of military personnel deployed in Somalia. The study is important because the public would know what impact deployment has on the military personnel and their families.

This study sought to identify the problems that military families go through when one parent (or both) is/are deployed in a foreign country. The research questions sought to establish the relationship between deployment and the well-being of the military-connected parents and their families.

A case study research design was the ideal design adopted because it enables the researcher to understand the behaviour pattern of the concerned families. All members of the family of the deployed individual were subjects to the study. One member represented each family. The researcher used cluster sampling in which different barracks represented different clusters. In each cluster, a simple random sample was obtained to be a representative of all military families in the country. Data analysis was through statistical techniques; table and graphical representations.

The study established that there is very strong positive correlation between deployment and the well-being of military families. Families with a deployed member experienced stress such as anxiety, fear, boredom and the children were unable to cope normally. Psychological impacts of deployment on children include depression, aggressive behavior, inability to socialize and poor academic performance. Children experience problems with re-adjustment when a deployed member returns. From the findings of the study, the researcher is convinced that deployment of the military has negative impacts on the families left behind. The whole family faces anxiety, fear and insecurity. Children do not develop normally, perform poorly in schools and have poor relationships with their mates.

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