

Military and Civilians Fractured Relationship in the Northern Region of Ghana: A Search for a Common Ground for Internal Peace and Security

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Abstract

Good relations between the military and the civilian population are crucial for maintaining peace and security in every society. Building relationships between civilians and the military is good for business. Still, it also helps build trust, understand how things work in the area, empower locals, and hold security forces responsible for protecting civilians. Numerous interconnected causes contribute to the problems that have sparked conflict in northern Ghana. In addition, different ethnic groups have different ideas about how wars started. The study aims to investigate the fractured relationship between the military and civilians in the Northern Region of Ghana while maintaining peace and internal security. The study employed a quantitative research approach. Simple random sampling technique was employed to select 225 respondents from the Northern Region for the study. Data was examined using SPSS and one sample *t-test* and regression analysis were used in analysing the data. The study found out that the military's abuse of power and lack of accountability in the Northern region of Ghana are causing a fractured relationship between the military and civilians. To rebuild trust and internal security, the military has proposed strategies like local security committees, mediation initiatives, and joint patrols with local police. The study concluded that Civil-Military fractured relationship influences the rebuilding of trust and internal security. Future studies could explore the effectiveness of these measures in resolving conflicts.

Keywords: Civilians, Military, Trust, Internal security, Peace.

1.0 Introduction

In northern Ghana, conflicts between and among ethnic groups have long existed. These conflicts differ in their origins, length, geographic reach, and effects. These include disputes over land, chieftaincy, and rights to utilize, manage, and profit from resources, marginalization, and vigilantism by political parties. The dangers of violent extremism in the Sahel, as well as vulnerability to radicalization with potentially disastrous consequences, are added to this mixture of internal problems (Amidu, 2024). Analyses of the factors contributing to internal disputes, the north's vulnerability to violent extremist attacks, and the radicalization of its youth have guided the region's peace and security programming. Thus, state and non-state actors have focused their programming and responses on traditional security strategies such as restructuring, retooling, and equipping the state's security apparatus and strengthening internal and cross-border intelligence gathering and analysis. Additionally, they have prioritized human security strategies such as supporting and strengthening livelihoods, improving access to services, and enhancing community cohesion (Amidu, 2024).

A complex and comprehensive undertaking, peacebuilding aims to stop conflicts from starting, continuing, or worsening. Its main goal is to create the conditions necessary to form long-lasting peace in civilizations that have experienced conflict, bloodshed, or instability (Wami et al., 2023). According to Wolfers' academic work, which Degaut (2015) cites, security is crucial to studying international relations. However, it is essential to remember that everyone has a very different sense of security and that perceptions of security are fundamentally subjective. Nation-states, strategic concerns, military prowess, and maintaining the status quo political system were the main areas of concern for security during the Cold War (Williams, 2013). Initiatives about peace and security typically require careful coordination and the support of district and federal officials and traditional leaders. Cooperation may stop if you annoy them or pose a threat to threaten their interests. For fear of retaliation, individuals in the community may also be hesitant to collaborate on or support projects that challenge the status quo (Amidu, 2024).

Undoubtedly, Ghana's internal operations diverge from conventional peacekeeping, with the military extensively deployed domestically for the past 20 years to support internal security operations. Twenty-two military-led internal operations took place in Ghana in 2020. Between 2001 and 2020, nearly one-third of the country's Armed Forces soldiers were involved in internal operations.¹ The military's years of expertise in international peacekeeping and their knowledge of domestic security issues, which they have gained from their overseas experience, have enhanced their capabilities in handling challenges related to internal security. Meanwhile, how the public views their precise mandate and operational engagements (Edu-Afful, 2022). Locals have utilized the military component of internal operations in various ways to enhance their awareness of security issues and to pinpoint the root causes of domestic security violations. The military has become even more essential in handling internal security in recent years as security threats have grown more complicated due to terrorism, violent extremism, vigilantism, and transnational organized crime (Edu-Afful & Allotey-Pappoe, 2016; Christensen, 2022). The number of military coups in African nations has significantly decreased, but military-civilian interactions remain complex, nuanced, and unsatisfactory (Asante, 2020). Kenyans living in the North Rift region of the country continued to experience disproportionate brutality from a variety of sources, including the military (Van den Broeck, 2021). In addition to engaging in widespread violence between 2009 and 2010, military and police officers also supplied weaponry to armed militias in the North Rift region of Turkana, Pokot, and Toposa, enabling them to continue an unending cycle of bloodshed (Van den Broeck, 2021).

Despite pleas from human rights organizations and pro-democracy organizations to stop the trend, military abuses of human rights persist in Ghana. In 2018, the military arbitrarily detained four boys, ages 13 to 16, on suspicion of stealing a senior military officer's cell phone. The troops ripped them apart and beat them with metal rods, a cutlass stick, and a pestle (IHRDA, 2021). Soldiers in Nuaso, Eastern

1 Interview, Brigadier General, Land Operations, Army HQ, Accra, November 13, 2020.

Region, physically assaulted eight rioters who refused to accept the installation of prepaid electricity meters by the electricity provider, Volta River Authority (Citi News, 2022). In Wa, Upper West region, a large number of soldiers stormed Tindama, a suburb, and physically assaulted several people indiscriminately in an attempt to recover a smartphone that a colleague had allegedly stolen. The military controls tie with civilians by guaranteeing competition for scarce resources and attention. The US military examined its members' social background, place of origin, motivations, way of life, status, and other comparable traits in the 20th century. Janowitz went on to say that the extent of military operations and society at large have changed due to the Allied victory in World War II and new concepts in military tactics, which have drawn attention to the military's role (Alhassan & Sayibu, 2023). According to Khorram-Mensah et al. (2022), Huntington's ideas have plagued numerous African nations where there is a tense interaction between the civilian population and the armed forces, ultimately leading to civilian casualties due to military brutality.

Every society needs positive ties between the armed forces and the civilian populace to be secure and peaceful. In addition to being beneficial for business, fostering relationships between the military and civilian population also helps establish trust, understand local customs and procedures, empower the community, and hold security personnel accountable for defending civilians (Civic Communications, 2023). In a recent study, Ibrahim (2023) examined the strained bonds between the police and the populace in Ghana's Northern Region, resulting in a collapse of confidence and collaboration in preserving internal security. However, this study will look at the military and civilian fractured relationship in the Northern Region of Ghana while maintaining peace and internal security to fill the empirical research gap. The study specifically seeks to discover the fractured relationship between the military and civilians, the defense mechanism of the military and what the civilians relies on them for and the military's strategies to rebuild trust and internal security, and finally to examine the Civil-Military fractured relationship on rebuilding trust and internal security.

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Overview of Conflict in Ghana

Suleiman (2017) attributes Ghana's democratic stability and tranquility to the absence of significant strife among political, ethnic, and religious factions. Several causes contribute to ethnic conflict, including politics, the land question, ethnocentrism, and criminal activity in some groups. Demographic, economic, political, and sociocultural factors all influence it and its effects, suggesting the dangers of oversimplifying problems (Oucho, 2021). In Ghana, land rights and chieftaincy conflicts, intrareligious and interethnic conflicts, and other resource-driven conflicts between communities continue to occur (Suleiman, 2017). Ghana faces numerous conflicts, including the Dagbon chieftaincy crisis, Kokomba-Nanumba, Alavanyo-Nkonya, and farmer-Fulani violence. These insecurity hotspots resurface during important events like elections (Suleiman, 2017). A study by Pehlivan and Gokmen (2023) found that foreign fighters (FFs) and ethnic conflict (EC) increase conflict duration (CD), with FFs making disagreements last longer and EC-related disputes increasing CD.

2.2 The Concept of Peace and Internal Security

Since societal vices frequently taint interpersonal relationships between individuals, groups, and communities, efforts to promote peace are still necessary in developing nations. According to Lusigi (2023), establishing settlement techniques and preventing retaliation pose a threat to society, making peacebuilding necessary. The real secret to lasting peace is not so much international intervention but peace-positive, community-based, and individual grassroots projects and collective actions. Community-led projects, local participation, and discourse are the first steps towards establishing lasting peace. Lusigi (2023) asserts that exploring preventative, early warning, and protection techniques can foster harmony, resilience, and enduring peace (Mustafa et al., 2023). Bringing about peace requires cooperation, compromise, and negotiation between parties with disparate interests and perspectives. Pursuing peace is essential for promoting social justice, human rights, and sustainable development. Various tactics,

such as diplomacy, mediation, conflict resolution, and promoting communication and reconciliation, can help in pursuing lasting peace, although it is an intricate and multifaceted process. Peace is, after all, a fundamental human goal that necessitates ongoing commitment and effort from all individuals and communities (Mustafa et al. et al., 2023).

According to DLS Solicitors (2024), some internal security measures are immigration and border control regulations, intelligence collection and analysis, threat surveillance, law enforcement, counterterrorism, and emergency response planning and training. According to the Peace Building Initiative History (2017), Johan Galtung first used the phrase in his seminal work “Three Approaches to Peace: Peacekeeping, Peacemaking, and Peace Building” in 1975. Developing nations have been advancing a discourse and practice that expands the concept and understanding of building sustainable peace by participating in mainstream discussions on the United Nations (UN) peacebuilding approach to conflict-affected countries in recent years.

2.3 The Military and Internal Security Operations

In today’s increasingly complex world, nation-states face many security threats. As a result, one key factor in determining a state’s success or failure is its subnational states’ ability to maintain sufficient internal security within their borders (Alumona et al., 2019). According to Momodu (2019), internal security operations (ISOs) are the constitutional authority of state security services to address internal challenges to a nation-state’s corporate life. The state authorizes the military to use force to thwart threats to the sovereignty and continued existence of the state, characterizing it as a unique social organization within the state (Zirker et al., 2008). As argued by Oshita and Ikelegbe (2019), internal security is fundamentally about ensuring the safety and preservation of people, property, essential institutions, the economy, and vital interests, maintaining a climate that permits citizens to exercise their right to privacy and pursue their legitimate concerns; and creating a safe and secure environment at home for development, production, and national advancement. A narrative that justifies the adoption of various government policies has led to the current fabrication of danger from

drug trafficking and terrorism, as well as the idea of military action to combat them. From the critical perspective of the Copenhagen School, an examination of the discursive threat construction mechanism, or securitization, shows how security discourse and practices enable actors and institutions to mobilize resources, control agendas, and use violence with more discretion (Battaglino, 2019).

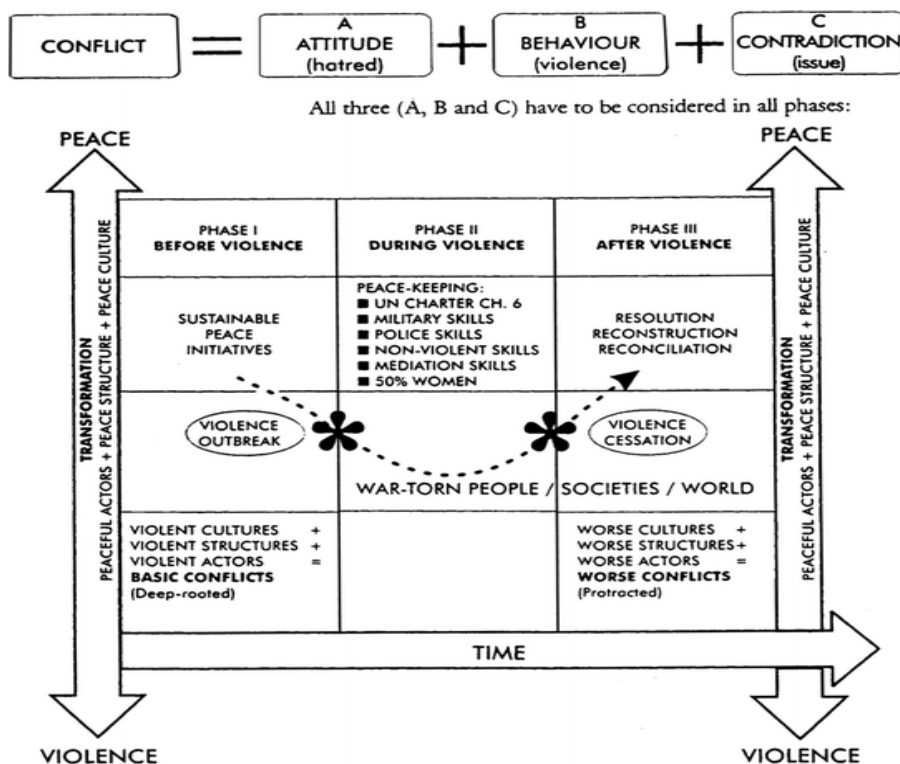
2.4 Theoretical Framework

The study used the Galtung conflict lifecycle, grounded in the Galtung peace theory. According to Galtung, conflicts have multiple phases, each exhibiting unique characteristics.

These phases include interconnected pre-violence, a violent phase, and post-violence processes. Put differently, the process involves a change in the intensity level of disputes, which have a dynamic structure instead of monotonous and static. To prevent and manage conflict and to decide how, where, and when to put strategies and measures into action, it is imperative to have a thorough understanding of the conflict cycle. He claims that these stages can outline what needs to be done to resolve the dispute (Galtung, 2000, p. 2).

The first stage is characterized by a culture of violence that justifies violence and by actors who aim to seize control of an oppressive and exploitative system. Therefore, violence is likely to happen. Steps should be taken to address the problem with empathy, inventiveness, and nonviolence. If this initial phase of the disagreement is unsuccessful, it will become violent. The violent stage is the second.

Figure 1: Galtung Conflict Lifecycle



Source: Galtung, (2000).

First and foremost, the violence needs to end. Violence never stays the same. It is incorrect to anticipate that violence will stop on its own. The most effective way to end violence is to employ nonviolent tactics. The UN Charter's Chapter 6 framework, which calls for the establishment of peace missions or entities dominated by women, should be used to avoid violence. The third stage begins when the violence stops. However, some tasks at this point require more complexity than others. Because retaliation or post-violence traumas might increase an actor's propensity for violence in culture and society, rebuilding the material losses, coming to an agreement on the conflict's topic, and resolving the main problem that underlies it in both structural and cultural aspects

must be done first. The first stage is repeated if these are not completed (Galtung, 2000, pp. 2–8). Galtung's life cycle is the foundation for the transformation-based approach to conflict resolution. Applying this idea will clarify how the Ghana Armed Forces (the military) manage conflict in the Northern Region and their tactics to end it.

2.5 Empirical Studies

For defence against criminal gangs and militant groups, civilians frequently rely on the military. (Zyck & Muggah, 2015). When other institutions cannot function, the military may offer humanitarian relief and necessities, including food, housing, and medical attention (UNICEF, 2018). Individuals' profound distrust can be traced back to historical or ongoing acts of injustice committed by military entities: hostility, misconduct, or unintended harm significantly impact relationships (Human et al., 2021).

Furthermore, if the military is perceived as an unusual entity or causing disruptions in daily life, people may regard their presence as an occupation rather than a defensive measure (Kaldor, 2007). Military operations that lead to displacements and disrupt local economies and social cohesiveness may encounter enduring challenges in the reconstruction and reconciliation process (IDMC, 2020). The presence of armed personnel and exposure to combat have a significant psychological effect on civilians, leading to stress and trauma (Summerfield, 1999).

Military operations are subject to specific rules of engagement (ROE) that define the circumstances and limitations for using force. These restrictions (Garlasco, 2008) achieve a more optimal equilibrium between the need for self-defense and the obligation to protect civilian lives and property. Force protection encompasses a variety of strategies, such as the implementation of physical security measures, including barriers, reinforced positions, and secure perimeters surrounding bases and patrols, to protect military personnel from attacks (Schroder, 2005). Intelligence and surveillance are crucial for identifying and assessing hazards. Humanitarian corridors make it easier to distribute aid and allow protected individuals, including civilians, to move.

Typically, establishing humanitarian corridors occurs during active hostilities when movement poses significant risks (Gillard, 2024).

Community policing is a complex security system that involves the people of a community supporting the police in discharging their duties as public servants. It is a police strategy that focuses on working in partnership with residents of a community as a means to involve them in executing their law enforcement duties (Shupard & Kearns 2019). Effective community policing involves understanding of some crucial multi-faceted factors that influence the police officers' behavior in their duty of preventing, detecting, investigating, and apprehension of offenders in a community (Gyamfi, 2022).

Military personnel undergo training on human rights and the legal regulations governing armed conflict to ensure their adherence to moral and legal principles. This training is crucial for mitigating abuses and maintaining the general public's trust (Smith & Osei, 2019). The military occasionally supports and facilitates local peacebuilding efforts, such as dialogue and mediation between conflicting parties. Acting as a neutral mediator during these processes reduces animosity and promotes long-term sustainability (Mensah & Antwi, 2020).

2.6 Hypothesis

The following hypothesis were tested:

H_o : The Civil-Military fractured relationship positively influences rebuilding of trust and internal security in the Northern Region of Ghana (Null hypothesis).

H_A : The Civil-Military fractured relationship negatively influences rebuilding of trust and internal security in the Northern Region of Ghana (Alternative hypothesis).

3.0 Methodology

The study used a quantitative research approach, which was appropriate for exploring the intricacies and subtleties of the damaged relationship between the military and the people in the northern area of Ghana. The

study focused on Ghana's Northern Region, which has traditionally been the site of conflicts involving civilian populations and military interventions. The target population consists of individuals, community leaders, local government officials, and military troops stationed there. This varied participant pool offers a complete view of the issues.

The study sample size was selected using Glenn (1992) sample size table.

Table 1: Sample Size

Size of the population	Size of Population Sample Size (n) for precision (e)å	
	±5%	±10%
500	222	83
1000	286	91
2000	333	95
3000	353	97
4000	364	98
5000	370	98
7000	378	99
9000	383	99
10000	385	99
15000	390	99
20000	392	100
25000	394	100
50000	397	100
100000	398	100
>100000	400	100

Source: Glenn, (1992).

The study used a population of 1000 individuals and used a precision of $\pm 5\%$, thus the study used a sample size of 286.

In selecting the 286 respondents for the study, the study used a simple random sampling technique. In simple random technique, each member of the population has an equal chance of being selected as subject (Sharma, 2017). The researchers used a questionnaire to get information from respondents that was crucial to the study. Two hundred and eight-six (286) questionnaires were drafted, prepared and administered to respondents, however, 225 responses were received. In relation to the 225 respondents, 163 were males while 62 were females; 78 of the respondents were from the aged group 26 to 30, followed by the aged group 31 to 35 years (62), 18 to 25 years (55) and finally 36 years and above (30). The 225 respondents were from Bawku, Bimbilla and Karaga.

The data was examined using statistical software from the statistical product and social science (SPSS) version 26. One sample t-test and regression analysis were used to analysed the data gathered. In relation to the t-test, the highest values were the focused of the study.

4.0 Results and Discussion

This section presented the findings and discussed them in accordance with the research questions of the study. The primary objective of this initial phase of the analysis was to investigate the underlying structural factors that have led to the strained relationship between the military and members of the public, with the purpose of identifying possible areas of agreement that could enhance trust and internal security.

4.1 The fractured relationship that exists between the Military and Civilians

The study sought to find out the causes of the damaged relationship that exists between the Military and the Civilians. From the table, all items have significant value below 0.05, hence they are all statistically significant.

Table 2: Causes of the Fractured Relationship

	<i>T</i>	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference
Lack of communication and understanding	50.102	.000	2.92444
Cultural differences	50.447	.000	2.82667
High level of indiscipline among the youth	47.316	.000	3.10222
Abuse of power by the military	56.313	.000	3.36889
Lack of accountability for military action	54.105	.000	3.45778
Political influences	53.331	.000	3.52444

Source: Field survey, (2024).

According to table 2, abuse of power by the military had the highest t-value (56.313), followed by lack of accountability for military action (54.105), political influences (53.331), cultural differences (50.447), lack of communication and understanding (50.102) and lastly high level of indiscipline among the youth (47.316). Therefore, abuse of power by the military and lack of accountability for military actions are the main causes of the fractured relationship between the Military and the Civilians in the Northern region of Ghana.

4.2 The defense mechanism of the military in the Northern Region in defending themselves from criminal gangs and militants and how the civilians, in turn, rely on the military.

Table 3: Ways the Military Defend Themselves from Criminal Gangs or Militant Groups

	<i>T</i>	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference
Verbal warnings	34.011	.000	2.47111
Physical restraint	35.974	.000	2.64889
Use of non-lethal weapons (e.g., batons, tear gas)	33.985	.000	2.49778
Use of firearms	32.565	.000	2.63556

Retreat/Withdrawal	29.461	.000	2.62667
Request for reinforcements	30.456	.000	2.69778

Source: Field survey, (2024).

This section looked at how the Military are able to defend themselves from militant groups and also how the Civilians seek help from the Military and finally the training given to them to prepare them for interacting with civilians

From table 3, Physical restraint had the highest t-value (35.974), followed by verbal warnings (34.011), use of non-lethal weapons (e.g., batons, tear gas)(33.985), use of firearms (32.565), request for reinforcements (30.456) and finally retreat/Withdrawal (29.461), thus all items are statistically significant. Therefore, in the Northern Region of Ghana, the Military defend themselves from criminal groups through physical restraint, verbal warnings and the use of non-lethal weapons.

Table 4: Ways Civilians Rely on the Military

	<i>T</i>	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference
Protection	102.302	.000	3.86667
Security	94.071	.000	3.92444
Safety	76.735	.000	3.59111

Source: Field survey, 2024

According to table 4, protection had a higher t-value (102.302), followed by security (94.071) and finally, safety (76.735). The civilians rely on the Military to protect them during the exchange of fire between the Military and criminal gangs and Militant groups in the Northern Region of Ghana, thus all items are statistically significant.

Table 5: Training that is Beneficial in Preparing the Military for Civilian Interactions

	<i>T</i>	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference
Conflict de-escalation techniques	99.277	.000	3.91111
Physical defense tactics	103.035	.000	3.96889
Psychological resilience	90.200	.000	3.84444
Communication skills	28.477	.000	2.87963
Cultural sensitivity training	84.853	.000	4.00000

Source; Field survey, 2024

According to table 5, physical defense tactics had the highest t-value (103.035), followed by conflict de-escalation techniques (99.277), psychological resilience (90.200), cultural sensitivity training (84.853) and finally communication skills (28.477), thus all items are statistically significant. The Military received training in physical tactics and conflict de-escalation techniques which prepares them for civilian interactions in the Northern Region of Ghana.

4.3 The Military strategies to rebuild trust and internal security

According to table 6, establishment of local security committees had the highest t-value (40.917), followed by mediation and conflict resolution initiatives (40.875), joint patrols with local police (40.620), community engagement and outreach programs (40.368), construction of infrastructure (e.g., roads, schools) (40.279), providing humanitarian assistance (32.696) and finally educational campaigns on peace and security (25.377), thus all items are statistically significant. Therefore, establishment of local security committees, mediation and conflict resolution initiatives and joint patrols with local police are the strategies put forth by the Military to rebuild trust and internal security in the Northern Region of Ghana.

Table 6: Strategies to Help Rebuild Trust and Internal Security

	<i>T</i>	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference
Community Engagement and Outreach Programs	40.368	.000	2.60444
Establishment of Local Security Committees	40.917	.000	2.65778
Construction of Infrastructure (e.g., roads, schools)	40.279	.000	2.60000
Joint Patrols with Local Police	40.620	.000	2.70222
Providing Humanitarian Assistance	32.696	.000	2.60444
Mediation and Conflict Resolution Initiatives	40.875	.000	2.20444
Educational Campaigns on Peace and Security	25.377	.000	1.96000

Source: Field survey, (2024).

4.4 The influence of Civil-Military fractured relationship on rebuilding trust and internal security

Regression analysis was employed to examine the influence of the Civil-Military fractured relationship in the Northern Region of Ghana on rebuilding trust and internal security.

According to Table 7, the R-square had a value of 0.477 which means that Civil-Military fractured relationship influences approximately 47.7% of the changes in rebuilding trust and internal security. In terms of statistical significance, the model above is statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level (5 percent level of significance). This means that there is about 95 percent confidence that the model, which sought to examine the impact of Civil-Military fractured relationship on rebuilding trust and internal security is correct.

Table 7: Coefficient of variable

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	<i>t</i>	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B		
	B	Std. Error	Beta			Lower Bound	Upper Bound	
1	(Constant)	.462	.064		7.197	.000	.336	.588.
	Civil-Mil FR	.721	.033	.691	21.694	.000	.656	.786.
R-Square= .477 Adj R-Square = .476 Sig = .000 ^b Note; Civil-Mil FR stands for Civil- Military Fractured Relationship								

a. Dependent Variable; Rebuild Trust and Internal Security

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The relationship that exists between Civil-Military fractured relationship and rebuilding trust and internal security was positive and statistically significant (Beta = 0.691, $t = 21.694$, $p\text{-value} = 0.000$). This means that the $p\text{-value}$ was below 0.05 significant level and hence Civil-Military fractured relationship influences rebuilding trust and internal security in the Northern Region of Ghana. Thus, the null hypothesis (H_0) was accepted, and the alternative hypothesis (H_A) was rejected.

5.0 Discussion

The empirical study reveals that some of the Military troops stationed at the Northern Region of Ghana abuse the power given to them and are not accountable for their military actions and this goes a long way to affect the trust the civilians have in relation to the Military forces. When other institutions cannot function, the military may offer humanitarian relief and basic necessities, including food, housing, and medical attention (UNICEF, 2018). Individuals' profound distrust can be traced back to historical or ongoing acts of injustice committed by military entities: hostility, misconduct, or unintended harm

significantly impact relationships (Human et al., 2021) which is in line with the study findings.

The empirical study also establishes that, the presence of criminal gangs and militant groups in the Northern Region cause the Military to defend themselves using physical restraint, verbal warnings and non-lethal weapons. These criminal gangs put fear into the civilians which makes the civilians rely on the military for protection. Military operations are subject to specific Rules of Engagement (ROE) that define the circumstances and limitations for using force. These restrictions (Garlasco, 2008) achieve a more optimal equilibrium between the need for self-defense and the obligation to protect civilian lives and property. For defense against criminal gangs and militant groups, civilians frequently rely on the military (Zyck & Muggah, 2015) which is consistent with the study findings.

The study further reveals that military personnel receiving training in physical tactics and conflict de-escalation techniques prepares them for interactions with civilians in the Northern Region of Ghana. Consistent with the study findings, DLS Solicitors (2024) reveals that some internal security measures are immigration and border control regulations, intelligence collection and analysis, threat surveillance, law enforcement, counterterrorism, and emergency response planning and training. The first stage of Galtung conflict lifecycle is characterized by a culture of violence that justifies violence and by actors who aim to seize control of an oppressive and exploitative system. Therefore, violence is likely to happen. Steps should be taken to address the problem with empathy, inventiveness, and nonviolence.

Establishment of local security committees, mediation and conflict resolution initiatives and joint patrols with local police are the strategies put forth by the Military to rebuild trust and internal security in the Northern Region of Ghana. Rebuilding trust and internal security requires understanding. When both entities are together, there is unity, which leads to cooperation and rebuilding trust, thereby strengthening the internal security of the conflict community. Community policing is a complex security system that involves the people of a community

supporting the police in discharging their duties as public servants. It is a police strategy that focuses on working in partnership with residents of a community as a means to involve them in executing their law enforcement duties (Shupard & Kearns 2019) which is consistent with the study findings.

The empirical study finally revealed that, there exist a Civil-Military fractured relationship in the Northern Region of Ghana. When this unhealthy relationship between the Civilians and Military carries on, it will cause a lot of harm to the Civilians and this will eventual lead to the Military and authorities in the Northern Region proposing several strategies to help bring a balance into their relationship and thus, rebuild trust and internal security in the Northern Region of Ghana. This implies that, the depth of the fractured relationship will lead to several or a lot of process in the rebuilding of trust and internal security in the Northern Region of Ghana. In line with the study finding, the presence of armed personnel and exposure to combat have a significant psychological effect on civilians, leading to stress and trauma (Summerfield, 1999). According to Galtung life cycle, rebuilding the material losses, coming to an agreement on the conflict's topic, and resolving the main problem that underlies it in both structural and cultural aspects must be done first. The first stage is repeated if these are not completed (Galtung, 2000, pp. 2–8).

6.0 Conclusion, Implication and Future Studies

In conclusion, the military's abuse of power and lack of accountability are the primary factors causing a fractured relationship between the military and civilians in the Northern region of Ghana. The military defends themselves through physical restraint, verbal warnings, and non-lethal weapons, while civilians rely on them for protection during conflicts. The military has received training in physical tactics and conflict de-escalation techniques to prepare for civilian interactions. To rebuild trust and internal security, the military has suggested strategies such as establishing local security committees, mediation initiatives, and joint patrols with local police.

The Ghana Armed Forces should take steps in improving the fractured relationship between the Military and Civilians in the Northern Region of Ghana by focusing on addressing the abuse of power by the military and ensuring accountability for military actions. Additionally, the Ghana Armed Forces should continue to train the military in physical tactics and conflict de-escalation techniques for better civilian interactions. Future studies could explore the effectiveness of local security committees, mediation and conflict resolution initiatives, and joint patrols with local police in rebuilding trust and internal security in the region.

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