



11-12 JUNE  
2019

# WEST AFRICA MINING SECURITY

CONFERENCE

Movēnpick Ambassador Hotel, Accra

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**Synopsis:** The West Africa Mining Security Conference will bring together academics, security practitioners, subject matter experts and the mining industry to discuss strategic security trends in the region. The conference will provide senior executives, operations and security managers with important information to inform future security and investment decisions.

On day one, speakers will address the social, economic, political, environmental factors, which may have a future impact on security, safety of employees and mining operations.

On day two, speakers will discuss the capacity of regional governments to deal with the threat; how the international community is responding; and what individual companies and industry can do to understand, mitigate and respond to an increasingly complex operating environment.





# PROGRAM

0800 Registration

0830 **Opening remarks, HE Andrew Barnes, Australian High Commissioner**

Moderator: Mr Glen Askew, Deputy High Commissioner, Australian High Commission, Accra

Master of Ceremonies: Ms Jillian Suggate, Second Secretary and Consul, Australian High Commission, Accra

## **Conference photograph**

0900 **The fall of Gaddafi and its impact on the Sahel**

In this session (45 minutes) the speaker will examine the impact of the collapse of the Gaddafi regime in Libya and the impact on Sahel countries including Mali and Burkina Faso.

Speaker: Dr Neveen Abdalla, Brunel University

0945 **Global trends and developments in violent extremism**

In this session (45 minutes) the speaker will examine global trends and developments in violent extremism, how they impact on West Africa and what opportunities exist to address them.

Speaker: Ms Lisa Sharland, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

1030 Break

1100 **Terrorist groups operating in the Sahel**

In this session (60 minutes), the speaker will catalogue the terrorist groups currently operating in West Africa, including the various, ever-shifting allegiances and differences in their *modus operandi*.

Speaker: Mr Will Clegg, Office of National Intelligence, Australian Government

1200 **Drivers of violent extremism and insecurity in the Sahel and the extension to coastal states**

In this session (60 minutes) the speaker will discuss how violent extremist groups exploit existing vulnerabilities to recruit and expand in the Sahel and beyond. The presentation will highlight social, political and economic drivers of violent extremism in the Sahel, including communitarian tensions, criminal influences and governance fault lines.

Speaker: Dr. Lori-Anne Theroux-Benoni, Institute for Security Studies, Director, Regional Office for West Africa, the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin.

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- 1300 Lunch
- 1400 **Islamic extremism and fragile states in the Sahel – projections for regional stability and security**  
In this session (60 minutes), the speaker will discuss Islamic extremism and fragile states in the Sahel, from the perspective of a security practitioner with six years of experience in the region.
- Speaker: Mr Bruno Denais, Principal Security Advisor, MINUSMA
- 1500 Break
- 1530 **Burkina Faso: the next domino in the spread of Islamic extremism in the Sahel?**  
In this session (45 minutes), the speaker will discuss the recent deterioration of security in Burkina Faso and the likely trajectory of extremism in the country.
- Speaker: Mr Rinaldo Depagne, West Africa Project Director, International Crisis Group
- 1615 **Panel: northern Ghana: potential for overflow**  
In this session, panellists will discuss the future of security in Ghana, including the impact of conflict in neighbouring Burkina Faso on northern Ghana and local political responses.
- Panellists: Mr Michael Ohene-Effah, Security and Intelligence Group, Ghana  
Dr Kwesi Aning, Kofi Annan International Peace Keeping Centre
- 1715 Closing remarks by moderator
- 1830 **Conference dinner at Movēnpick Ambassador Hotel**  
Hosted by High Commissioner Barnes
- Keynote Address: regional political outlook: 2020 elections**  
Mr Rinaldo Depagne, West Africa Project Director, International Crisis Group  
The speaker will discuss the political fault lines in West Africa, including the upcoming elections and potential for election-related violence in Ghana, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea.



# PROGRAM

0800

Arrival

0830

## **Fragile states: the regional capacity to respond to violent extremist threats**

In this session (60 minutes) the speaker will discuss the current military and intelligence capabilities of Mali and Burkina Faso and provide an assessment of their capacity to respond effectively to the threat.

Speaker:

Lt. Col. Martin Bernier, Canadian Defence Attaché, Mali

0930

## **The evolution of terrorist tactics, procedures and planning in Burkina Faso**

In this session (45 minutes) the speaker will provide an overview of the evolution of terrorist terror group tactics, training and procedures, including planning and preparation of an attack (target selection, reconnaissance, pre-positioning and launch).

Speaker:

Maj. Sir Philip Whitehead, Regional Security Director for West Africa, MS Risk

1015

Break

1045

## **Understanding and mitigating the threat from improvised explosive devices**

In this session (60 minutes) the speaker will discuss the current improvised explosive device threat to mining operations in the Sahel and provide practical and actionable advice on mitigating the risk.

Speaker:

Lt. Col. Dr Chris Owen

1145

## **Company operations in a high risk environment**

In this session (60 minutes), the speaker will discuss practical security measures industry (both small and large operators) can take to mitigate against, terrorism and kidnapping.

Speaker(s):

Lt. Col. Liam Morrissey, Chief Executive Officer, MS Risk

1245

Lunch

1345

## **A risk based approach to mine security**

In this session (45 mins) the speaker will provide an example of security architecture at a large mine site operating in a difficult security environment.

Speaker:

Mr Shane O'Sullivan, Corporate Security Manager, Resolute Mining

1430

## **A negotiator's perspective of a critical incident**

In this session (60 minutes) the speaker will outline the core principles of hostage negotiation in kidnap for ransom events.

Speakers:

Det. Supt. (ret) Neil Stapley OBE, former Head, Police Hostage and Crisis Negotiation Unit, London Metropolitan Police

1530

Break

1600

**Panel discussion (60 minutes)**

Open panel to discuss conference sessions, including where Sahel security is headed; whether Burkina Faso is likely to be the next domino to fall to jihadist groups; the future of the Islamic State in the Sahel; industry response; the role of Australian and other western governments in assisting industry; opportunities for collective action; working together for everyone's safety.

Panellists:

Lt. Col. Owen

Ms Theroux-Benoni

Lt. Col. Morrissey

Det. Supt. Stapley

Mr William Witham, Chief Executive Officer, Australia Africa Minerals and Energy Group (AAMEG)

1700

**Closing remarks by High Commissioner Barnes**

1900

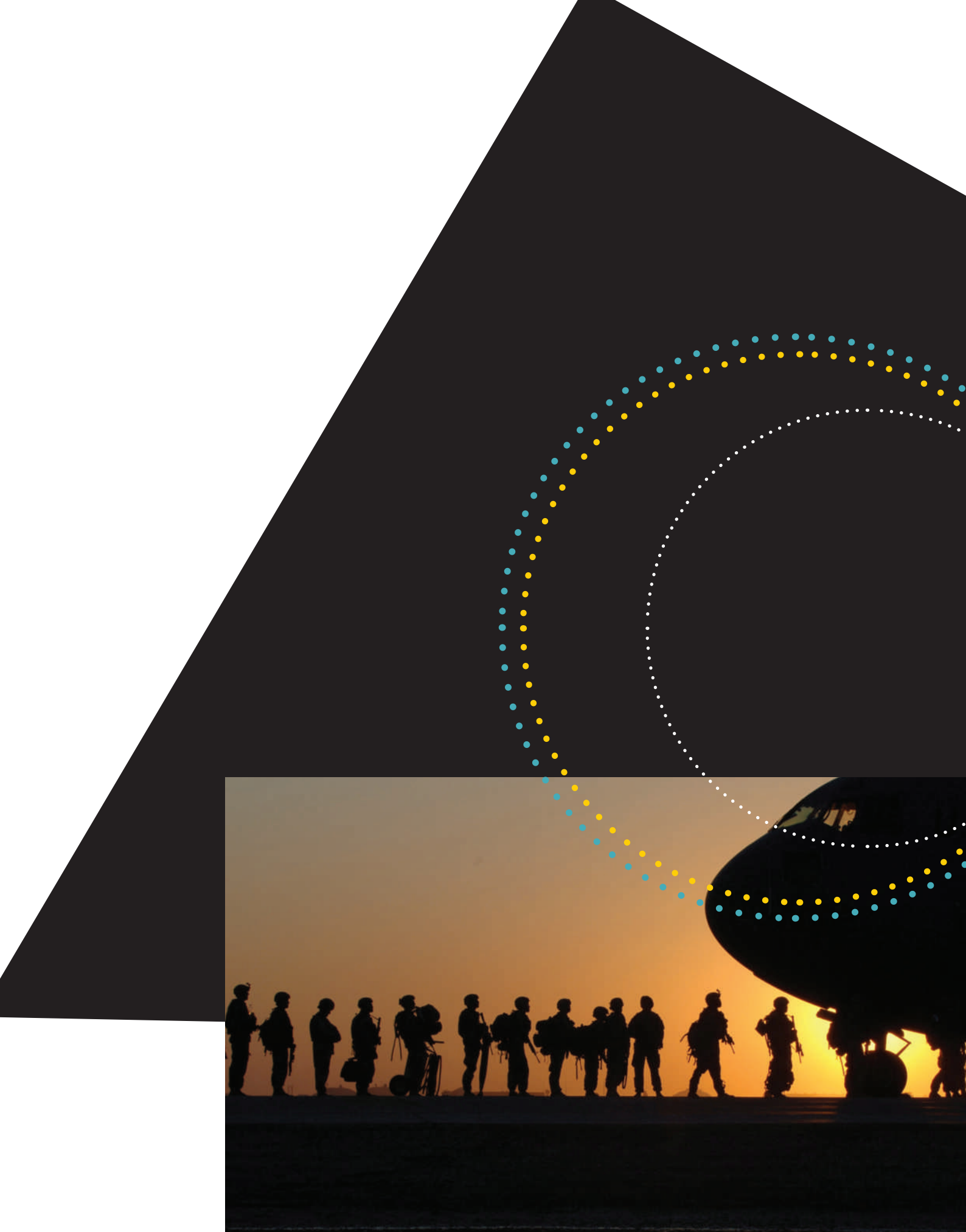
**Closing BBQ reception**

Australian High Commissioner's Residence









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