



11-12 JUNE  
2019

# WEST AFRICA MINING SECURITY

CONFERENCE

Mövenpick Ambassador Hotel, Accra







The West Africa Mining Security Conference brings 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 and environmental factors, which may have a future impact on security, the safety of employees and mining operations.

On day two, speakers will discuss the capacity of regional governments to respond to security challenges; the role of the international community; and what individual companies and industry can do to understand, mitigate and effectively respond to an increasingly complex operating environment.





# PROGRAM

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

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

0800 Registration

0900 **Opening remarks, HE Andrew Barnes, Australian High Commissioner**

0905 **Video Address by Mr Tony Sheehan, Deputy Secretary,  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

0910 **Address by the Hon Ambrose Dery, Minister for the Interior, Republic  
of Ghana**

0930 **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 on Sahel countries including Mali and Burkina Faso.

Speaker: Dr Neveen Abdalla, Associate Lecturer, Brunel University

1015 **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, Head, International Program, Australian Strategic  
Policy Institute

1100 Break

1130 **Terrorist groups operating in West Africa**

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, Senior Analyst, Office of National Intelligence, Australian  
Government

1230 **Sources of terrorist financing in West Africa**

In this session (30 minutes), the speaker will discuss the sources of financing for extremist groups in the Sahel, including the evolving role of small-scale and illegal gold mining.

Speaker: Mr David Lewis, Africa Special Correspondent, Thomson Reuters

1300 Lunch

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1400

**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, Director, Regional Office for West Africa, the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin, Institute for Security Studies

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 and Senior Africa Adviser, International Crisis Group

1615

**Panel: Northern Ghana: Potential for overflow**

In this session (60 minutes), panellists will discuss the future of security in Ghana, including arms trafficking routes through the country and vulnerabilities in the Northern regions.

Panellists:

Mr Michael Ohene-Effah, Co-founder and Director, Security and Intelligence Group, Ghana

Dr Kwesi Aning, Director, Faculty of Academic Affairs and Research, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre

1715

Closing remarks by moderator

1830

**Conference dinner**

Ballroom, Mövenpick Ambassador Hotel

*Hosted by High Commissioner Barnes*

**Remarks by Ms HK Yu, First Assistant Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

**Keynote Address: Regional political outlook: 2020 elections**

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.

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# PROGRAM

Speaker: Mr Rinaldo Depagne, West Africa Project Director and Senior Africa Adviser,  
International Crisis Group  
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 security threats.

Speaker: Lt. Col. Martin Bernier, Defence Attaché, Canadian Embassy, 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 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 risks.

Speaker: Lt. Col. Dr Chris Owen, Consultant

1145 **Company operations in a high risk environment**  
In this session (60 minutes), the speaker will discuss practical security measures that 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 minutes), 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: Mr William Witham, Chief Executive Officer, Australia Africa Minerals and Energy Group (AAMEG)  
Lt. Col. Dr. Owen  
Dr. Theroux-Benoni  
Lt. Col. Morrissey  
Det. Supt. (ret.) Stapley

1700 **Closing remarks by High Commissioner Barnes**

1900 **Informal networking reception**

Australian High Commissioner's Residence  
2 Second Rangoon Close, Cantonments

*A courtesy shuttle bus will be provided to and from the High Commissioner's Residence and the Mövenpick Hotel. The shuttle will depart the Mövenpick at 1845 sharp.*



# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**Dr Neveen Abdalla**  
Associate Lecturer  
Brunel University

Dr Neveen Abdalla is an Associate Lecturer at Brunel University, London where she teaches the fundamentals of American politics including political foundations of the establishment of the US, examination of three branches of government and the electoral process.

Dr Abdalla holds a doctorate and Master's degree in Intelligence and Security Studies from Brunel University, London.

She worked as a threat analyst (Middle East and North Africa) for Global Maritime, where her duties included regular situational updates on maritime and on-shore activities in troubled market areas, weekly updates on key maritime port security and in-situ and remote security for election monitoring and other events.



**Lisa Sharland**  
Head, International Program  
Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Lisa Sharland is Head of the International Program at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) in Canberra, Australia. Since joining ASPI in March 2014, Lisa has conducted field research on preventing and countering violent extremism in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Kenya, and on UN peacekeeping missions in Mali, South Sudan and the Central African Republic. She has authored numerous research publications and provided expert commentary to media and news outlets. Lisa has been a Visiting Fellow at the Stimson

Center in Washington DC and remains a non-resident Fellow in the Protecting Civilians in Conflict Program.

Prior to joining ASPI, Lisa worked as the Defence Policy Adviser at the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations in New York, where she provided advice on peacekeeping and defence-related policy issues and represented Australia in multilateral negotiations in the UN Security Council and General Assembly bodies. Lisa is a member of the Advisory Group on Australia-Africa Relations (AGAAR), which is tasked by the Foreign Minister with informing Australia's thinking and policies on Africa. She also serves on the Advisory Board of the University of Western Australia's Africa Research and Engagement Centre (AfREC).



**David Lewis**  
Africa Special Correspondent  
Thomson Reuters

David Lewis is the current Africa Special Correspondent for Reuters, leading the agency's Africa investigations and working alongside correspondents on projects across the continent.

Over the course of 15 years working for Reuters in Africa, David has been based in Kinshasa, Kampala, Abidjan and Dakar. In this time, he has covered breaking news, reported from numerous conflicts, managed bureaux and led investigations into issues ranging from political intrigue and corporate corruption to organised crime and the spread of terrorism.



### **Dr Lori-Anne Theroux-Benoni**

**Director, Regional Office for West Africa, the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin**  
**Institute of Security Studies**

Dr Lori-Anne Th eroux-B enoni is Director of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) Regional Office for West Africa, the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin. She leads a team of researchers from Dakar to N'Djamena working on key policy issues in the region, including violent extremism, terrorism, political instability, community conflicts, organized crime, peace operations and political processes. Before being appointed Director in 2014, Lori-Anne worked as a senior researcher and analyst for the ISS, the Network on Peace Operations at the University of Montreal, Canada and the Carter Center in C te d'Ivoire. Lori-Anne has a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Toronto, Canada.



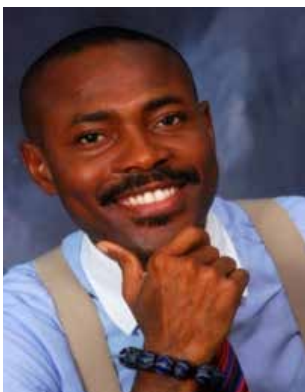
### **Rinaldo Depagne**

**West Africa Project Director and Senior Africa Adviser**  
**International Crisis Group**

Rinaldo Depagne is the West Africa Project Director and Senior Africa Adviser at International Crisis Group, where he currently coordinates and oversees the research of a group of analysts in Nigeria, the Lake Chad Basin, C te d'Ivoire, Guinea and Burkina Faso. He was previously the organisation's Senior Analyst for C te d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso.

Before joining Crisis Group in 2008, Rinaldo worked as a journalist for 20 years, specialising in West Africa. He has worked for various French newspapers and international media houses, including the BBC, Deutsche Welle and Canal +. He spent fifteen years living in Benin, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, C te d'Ivoire and Senegal.

His areas of expertise include: France-Africa relations; West African geopolitics and politics; armed groups and violence in C te d'Ivoire; Burkina Faso civilizations, history and recent security and social crisis; and current issues in the region.



### **Michael Ohene-Effah**

**Co-founder and Director**  
**Security and Intelligence Group, Ghana**

Michael is the Co-Founder and Political Advisory Director at the Security and Intelligence Group, Ghana (SIG-Ghana). SIG-Ghana is an advisory firm that specialises in market sector analysis across West Africa, providing key insights, critical analysis and the apposite answers to support decision-makers serve their clients better.

Between 2011 and March 2014, Michael provided advisory services across the DFID Ghana portfolio, including big picture thinking on emerging governance areas (democratic consolidation, aid graduation, inclusive development, second wave reforms etc.).

Before joining DFID Ghana, Michael worked in various roles within the UK Government in Ghana, including as Head of the Political, Press & Projects Section at the UK High Commission. Until 2014, Michael was also the Strategic Governance Advisor for the \$25 million multi-donor pooled fund, STAR Ghana.





### **Dr Kwesi Aning**

**Director, Faculty of Academic Affairs and Research  
Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre**

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Dr Kwesi Aning is the Director, Faculty of Academic Affairs and Research at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Ghana and Clinical Professor of Peacekeeping Practice at Kennesaw State University, Atlanta.

Dr Aning served with the African Union from 2005 to 2007 as the first continental Expert on the Common African Defence and Security Policy (CADSP) with responsibility for the African Centre for the Study and Research of Terrorism.

He subsequently served as a senior consultant to the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) of the UN in New York and wrote a Secretary-General's Report for the Security Council on 'the relationship between the UN and regional Organisations especially the African Union' in 2008.

He serves on the World Economic Forum Council on Conflict Prevention. In 2006, he was appointed as the first independent evaluator of the UN's Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism. In 2014, he co-authored the second evaluation report on the UN's Global Report. In 2015, he was appointed by the UN Secretary General to serve as a member of his Advisory Group to the Peacebuilding Fund.



### **Lieutenant Colonel Martin Bernier**

**Defence Attaché  
Embassy of Canada, Mali**

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Lieutenant Colonel Bernier is a veteran military officer, having joined the Canadian Armed Forces in June 1988. He was affiliated with the 12th Canadian Armoured Regiment in (12eRBC) Valcartier.

Lieutenant Colonel Bernier held various regimental positions and commanded a troop during the 1990 Oka Crisis. He also participated in two United Nations operations as troop leader, OP SNOWGOOSE in Cyprus in 1990-91 and OP CAVALIER in Croatia / Bosnia in 1992-93.

He has held several high profile positions including Battle Captain and Deputy Commander of the Reconnaissance Squadron, G3 Plans, G3 Operations and G4 Operations, Commander of the Training Squadron and Chief Instructor at Armor School in Gagetown. He was promoted to his current rank in January 2010.

Since July 2018, he has held the position of Canadian Defense Attaché to Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mauritania, based in Bamako.



**Major Sir Philip Whitehead**  
Regional Security Director for West Africa  
MS Risk

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Major Sir Philip Whitehead is a security expert with over 20 years' experience in Africa. He joined the British regular army before volunteering for the British Special Forces where he spent his final 14 years. Philip joined BP in Algeria in 1995 to secure their gas project at the height of the political insurgency. He later built a security company which he sold to a global leader in 2008. Since then, he has worked with the extractives industry in Central and Southern Africa, East Africa and, for the past 5 years, in West Africa. He is Regional

Security Director for West Africa at MS Risk, covering 9 principal countries. He is bilingual (English-French) and is based in Burkina Faso.



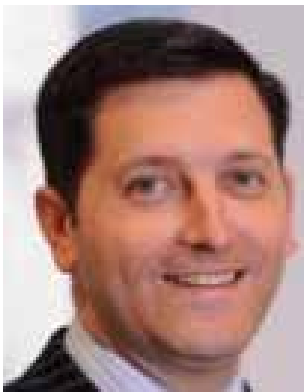
**Lieutenant Colonel Dr Chris Owen**  
Improvised Explosive Device Specialist

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Dr Chris Owen is an adviser to the United Nations, military and industry on mitigating the threats from improvised explosive devices (IEDs). His recent work has developed capability to combat use of IEDs by insurgents in East Africa and Yemen. Chris has appeared on CNN, Sky, and BBC as a subject matter expert on IEDs and is the author of several publications including 'The Commander's Guide to Counter-IED'.

As a junior officer in the British Army, Chris served as a 'high-threat' counter-terrorist bomb disposal operator, gaining experience in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. As a staff officer, Chris worked to develop tactics and managed programmes to procure equipment for detection and disposal of IEDs.

Upon leaving the British Army, Chris obtained a PhD from Sheffield University. He took up roles such as Scientific Adviser to the British Commanding General in Iraq, and later to the British Commander in Afghanistan, focusing on countermeasures to IEDs. Returning to military service, Chris took up the role of Chief Weapons Intelligence in Afghanistan, where he pioneered biometric methods to apprehend insurgents using IEDs against coalition forces.



**Lieutenant Colonel Liam Morrissey**  
Chief Executive Officer  
MS Risk

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Liam Morrissey joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1986 and was commissioned as an Armoured Reconnaissance Officer. He served as a Combat Arms Officer and held command and staff roles of increasing responsibility, releasing early as a Major.

He entered the private security sector in support of resources companies in Africa and Latin America, creating security programs, resolving instances of employee kidnap and intimidation whilst directing commercial security operations, often in conflict environments. He was appointed on his first kidnap case in 1997. Later, he accepted a commission in the British Army to serve as a Lieutenant Colonel supporting the Intelligence Corps and Ministry of Defence as a specialist reservist.



Liam formed the crisis response consultancy that evolved as MS Risk Limited by 2011. His firm is retained by leading insurance syndicates writing specialty risks: extortion, illegal detention, kidnap for ransom and hijacking, as well as conducting enterprise risk analysis. He serves clients in the energy, mining, hospitality & leisure, marine & transportation, engineering, insurance, NGO, legal and financial sectors, and has undertaken crisis response casework around the globe. He has a strong focus on emerging market threats and is a technical adviser to law enforcement and military clients on live case work, training and policy development. He is an expert witness and a recognised thought leader on combatting transnational extortive crime.



**Shane O'Sullivan**  
**Corporate Security Manager**  
**Resolute Mining**

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Shane O'Sullivan was a long-term serving Warrant/Non-Commissioned Officer with the Australian Army for 22 years. He served 15 years with the Australian Special Forces as a member of the Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) where he served in numerous command, operational and capability development appointments. During his service, Shane was involved in the development and delivery of military capabilities supporting the National Counter Terrorism Framework and the training and development of overseas forces.

Since leaving the Army in 2001, Shane has been active in project and organisational management, delivering training, security and capability development services to construction and Oil and Gas sectors, amongst other clients. In the roles of Project and General Manager, these services have often demanded creative solutions in complex national and international situations to deliver outcomes supporting security and emergency management objectives.

Shane currently works for Resolute Mining in Perth, Western Australia as the Corporate Security manager.

**Detective Superintendent (ret.) Neil Stapley OBE**  
**Kidnapping Response Specialist**

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Detective Superintendent (ret.) Neil Stapley joined the Metropolitan Police in 1988 and was posted to the Criminal Investigations Department from 1990.

Over the last nine years, Neil led the Hostage & Crisis Negotiation Unit based at New Scotland Yard. He was the longest serving head of unit in its 45 year history. He has extensive experience in responding to criminal and terrorist inspired kidnaps, managing other crisis and critical incidents. He is an active participant on the International Hostage and Crisis Negotiation Working Group. He regularly attended the British Government's crisis management meetings and advised the last four Prime Ministers and senior British politicians on terrorist inspired kidnaps and other crises.

Neil retired from the police in December 2018. He now specialises in consultancy and training in a number of fields, including crisis management, negotiation, leadership, command & control, and covert policing. His most recent work includes preparing and developing capabilities across the Middle East, including crisis management training for British Embassy staff. He continues to work as a 'subject matter expert' on projects for HMG, including leading the support to the Japanese Police and their wider government with their preparations for the 2020 Olympics.



### **William Witham**

**Chief Executive Officer**

**Australia-Africa Minerals and Energy Group**

Mr Witham has broad experience over a 30 year career working in the technical, commercial, marketing and financial fields of the international exploration and mining industry.

Mr Witham spent two years in the 1990s based in Africa as General Manager for the World Geoscience Corporation. Since then, Mr Witham has worked for a number of international and Australian companies in Africa and Australia including DMC Mining (Congo), Waratah Resources (Congo) and

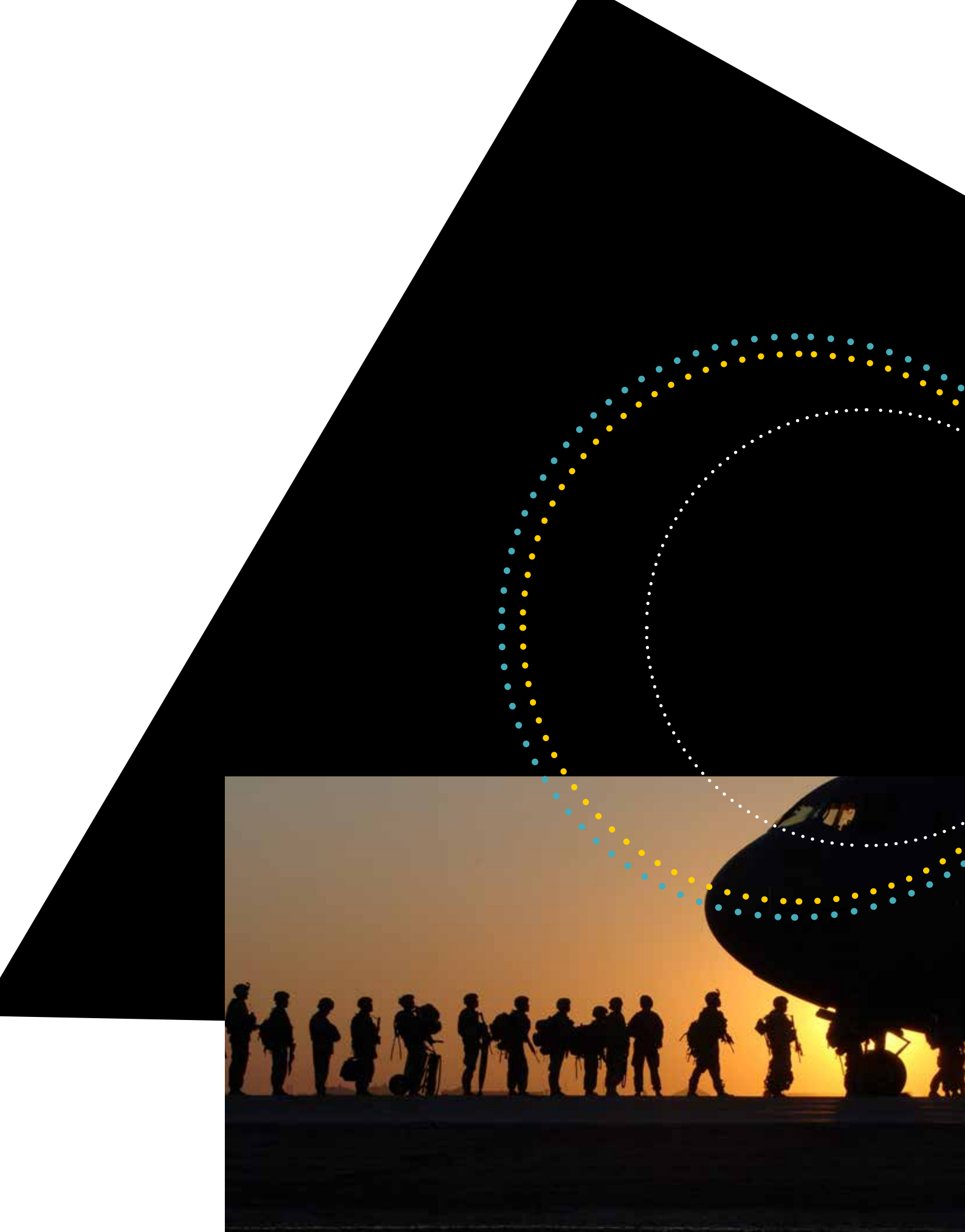
Whinnen Resources Ltd (Cameroon and Namibia).

Mr Witham holds a Bachelor in Science with Honours in Geology from the University of Western Australia and is the CEO of the Australia-Africa Minerals and Energy Group (AAMEG).









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