

**Remarks by Chargé d’Affaires Robert Yamate
Post Blast Investigation Course
September 7, 2012 -- Dakar**

(As prepared)

General Sene,

Participants and Distinguished guests,

Good morning.

I would like to thank the Government of Senegal and its national *Gendarmerie* for their sponsorship of the Post-Blast Investigation Course conducted in partnership with our Legal Attaché’s office at the U.S. Embassy. I especially want to offer my congratulations to the participants for finishing the week- long course. While I am sure that it was intense, the skills that you have learned are vital.

The threats that *AQMI*, *Boko Haram* and other terrorist groups pose are not isolated to just one country, nor can they be tackled by a single country. The United States government works in close cooperation with the Government of Senegal, as well as the other governments with participants represented today, on security matters. We do so in the belief that what is a threat to you and to the region is also a threat to the world. So whether it is putting together a conference for African Military Air Chiefs, as we did just last week, sending African security officials to the United States on exchange and training programs, or conducting this Post-Blast Investigation course, we stand in partnership with you.

You opened this course by discussing different types of explosives and their composition, and evidence collection and preservation. You also learned about actual incidents of terrorism: You had the opportunity to visit the range and participate in a practical field exercise, see the effects of explosions and process a crime scene. Finally, you participated in evidence collection and preservation, and learned about types of forensic analysis that are used to identify those responsible for crimes of this nature.

Most important, however, may be the relationships that you have made: Being here and talking together, is just one of many steps towards creating a framework for law enforcement agencies to work together toward common objectives. We hope you each walk away from this training session having formed new contacts and enhanced existing ones.

I would like to thank you all for your commitment to law enforcement and to this training session. Your commitment amounts to nothing less than the security of your country and your countrymen and women. You will now return to your jobs with new knowledge and skills, prepared to lead the way to combat terrorist crimes. By sharing information with each other through the contacts you have made here, you will be able to help prevent acts of terrorism in your respective countries. The United States government stands beside you in support of your work: When you are not safe, nor are we.

Thank you to all who made this course possible, and I wish you safe travels back home, to everyone near and far.