

# 11<sup>th</sup> International Anti-Corruption Conference: Workshop 6.1

## Presentation Abstract

---

1. Panelist Name: Gavin Woods	2. Workshop Title: Corruption in the Arms Trade: The South African Case
3. Title of case-study or paper: Executive Accountability and the South African Arms Deal	

---

In 1999 the South African government decided to comprehensive re-equip its national military establishment. The military hardware decided upon included significant numbers of submarines, corvettes, helicopters, trainer jet aircraft and fighter jet aircraft - the cost of which amounted to 25 percent of the country's annual budget. Shortly after the supply contracts were awarded to various international arms manufactures, serious allegations of corruption and other irregular actions were made concerning the actual procurement transactions. The investigative response of relevant public institutions to the allegations covered three separate stages:

1. an initial review of the procurement processes by the country's SAI (The Auditor General).
2. an interrogation of relevant defense department officials and a document analysis by the national legislature's public accounts committee
3. on the request of the Public Accounts Committee, a criminal, forensic and systems investigation by a combined team of the country's statutory investigative agencies

The case study will describe:

- the nature of the procurement processes, their failings, the correlation between these failings and the nature of the allegations made, the role of the executive (who were responsible for the procurement transactions)
- the failure of the main investigation into the transactions and the associated allegations, the role of the Executive in undermining the investigation, subsequent findings, the unanswered questions
- the oversight and accountability lessons learnt
- certain co-incidence with other recent international arms deal experiences

In considering the large sums of public money spent by countries on arms, together with the particular nature of the international arms trade, the presentation will highlight the additional burden of responsibility that such acquisitions place on an executive government and on oversight institutions.

---

