MINING SECURITY: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

The theft of mineral resource, copper cables, explosives, diesel and the prevention of illegal miners and criminal syndicates from entering the mining premises are issues of prominence in the mining security industry today.
These issues are further exaperated by employees and contractors colluding with organised criminal syndicates to harvest precious metals, gems and other high value assets from mining establishments.

The greatest challenge to the mining security management is to put in place a suitable infrastructure that can positively identify all indivisuals on site with required credintials, to restrict those indivisuals movement according to their roles and corresponding credintials. This identity management will basically answer the question : Who went Where and When?.

Core to a functional mine security management is the installation of an Acces Control, CCTV Surveillance with the physical Perimeter Security playing a more paramount role.

While general security principles are applicable across the mining security industry the core needs will always vary from mine to mine, for example a coal mine may have a lesser sophisticated security needs compared to a diamond mine, the later having advanced Body Scanners not necessarily required in a coal mine.
It is therefore incubent to the security management to engage a security specialist company to evaluate, recommend and possible install the right technologies as necessary.

The installation of the right technologies may include the integration of Staff/Contractors Identity Management System, Perimeter Intrusion Detection, CCTV Surveillance & Monitoring, Vehicle Licence Plate Recognition, Personal Body Scanners, Vehicle Scanners, Explosive Detection etc. Integrating the above with physical barriers such as Traffic Booms, Automatic Gates, Turnstiles, Road Blockers, Bollards, Razor/Electric Fence etc will create a formidable security installation for any mining establishment.

It should however be noted that any advanced technology may not give a desired outcome without a well trained, motivated monitoring and response team. For example, should the perimeter intrusion be detected the control and field staff must cordinate a response through a dedicated communications channels assited by an Automated Geographical Location Analyser. Such a response will require a well trained staff as opposed to the ordinary security staff usually found in most mining establishments.
Depending on the states security status where the mine is located, it could be necessary to engage staff with military backgrounds should it be in an unstable state in political chaos.

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