

NATO CODIFICATION SYSTEM



Newsletter

release 9, dated 17 December 2008

94th AC/135 Directors' meeting

The autumn 2008 meeting of AC/135 Main Group took place in Piestany at the invitation of the National Codification Bureau of the Slovak Republic. Sponsored Tier 2 countries attended the fall Main Group this year for the first time and together with NATO countries appreciated the Slovak hospitality. Attendees are pictured to the right in front of Bratislava Castle. The massive rectangular building with four corner towers stands in the middle of Bratislava on an isolated rocky outcrop of the Little Carpathians, directly above the Danube river. It offers excellent views of Bratislava, Austria and, in good weather, Hungary.



Bratislava Castle

The quality of codification data was



The Pezinok cellars

given high priority on the AC/135 Main Group's agenda. The Chairman of Panel A reported on the AC/135 quality indicators showing the five-year performance trends concerning characteristics, approved item names and references. NAMSA was commended for this important work and further attention will be paid to reference targets in order to make better assessments.

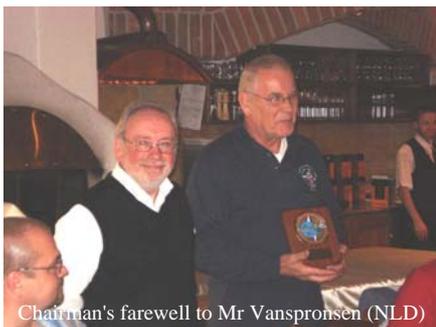
The question of the responsibilities of the CNAD Group on Life Cycle Management (AC/327) remains highly relevant to the NCS, and AC/135 is represented at all AC/327 meetings, as well as maintaining active liaison with the NATO Asset Tracking Inter-Service Working Group.

In order to produce statistical data on LSA performance, NAMSA proposed to extract the data concerning codification requests on behalf of nations directly from the NATO Mailbox System. This idea would be further explored, the long term vision being to consider an AC/135 data warehouse which could centrally produce numerous metrics regarding codification data and provide business intelligence in this area.



Farewell to Col Greczmiel (DEU)

AC/135 welcomed ECCMA's achievement in linking the Common Procurement Vocabulary to NCS Item Names. The successful outcome of this exercise will be followed by publication on NMCRLplus. The feasibility study will be continued under Belgian leadership, focusing on seeking relationships between Reportable Item Codes and the NATO Codification System.



Chairman's farewell to Mr Vanspronsen (NLD)

Ukraine joined the Tricod WG and offered to share its experience in the validation of identification data concerning legacy items. Since the inception of the Tricod in 1999, the participating nations have developed effective and undemanding procedures for validating identification data of countries that have just started codifying defense items of supply.

The director of the UK NCB, Mr George Bond, was unanimously elected to his second tenure as Chairman of AC/135.

11th International Symposium on Codification



Is Scotland Yard in Scotland? What is the paperless way to ask for identification data? Why did men in Scotland choose to wear kilts and not trousers? Is codification used on six continents? These questions and many more will be answered at the 11th Symposium on Codification that will be organised by the UK NCB from 25–27 May 2010 in the Edinburgh International Conference Centre. Further announcements will be

communicated via the event website www.codification2010.org where you are welcome to register your interest.

Modernisation & Simplification

The NATO Codification has been serving Alliance for 50 years. Over these years, many changes and improvements have been made to ensure that Codification is up to the speed with technological advances and new techniques. To maintain this progress, it has been decided to establish a dedicated working group tasked to pursue modernization actions. Under Chairmanship of the Director of the Polish NCB, this work will encompass both simplification and modernisation of codification processes taking into account technological developments. The NATO Codification System Modernisation Working Group (NCSMWG) will focus on the review of codification processes; redesign of the materiel classification and item naming, standardisation of Master Requirements for item description, incorporation of item photographs into NMCRLplus, LSA procedures, XML use in NCS with a view to achieving standardisation between government and industrial material identification.



The NCSMWG will consider ways to make most effective use of the Smart STEP Codification tool and the advantages that ISO 22745 and ISO 8000 projects bring to the world of material data exchange. Most parts of ISO 22745 have been completed and are ready for ballot. The UK has conducted a series of trials on the application of ISO 8000 as compared with the traditional codification process, which resulted in better quality identification data, which is fundamental for accurate codification, as well as reduced processing time. AC/135 recommends that as many as possible NCBs carry out similar trials.

Non – NATO Countries' involvement in the NCS

This interoperability feature of the NATO Codification System becomes more important as NCS expands around the world. The AC/135 Sponsorship Programme, under CNAD supervision, provides non-NATO countries with a unique cooperation framework for participating in and benefiting from the use of the NCS. Thirty-one nations have been approved for NCS sponsorship including recent addition of Afghanistan, Georgia and India. Applications from Pakistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and the United Arab Emirates are being considered by AC/135 Main Group. The number of sponsored nations will increase next year and there are no signs that this will be the end of the applications. AC/135 is a lead CNAD group in terms of relations with non-NATO countries actively supporting NATO's strategy for increased dialogue and cooperation.



The Pacific Area Cataloguing Seminar (PACS) has been actively promoting use of NCS among countries in Asia and Oceania. The Sultanate of Brunei has formally joined PACS, and also China has already translated NATO catalogue of approved item names and classification into Mandarin. Since distance prevents PACS nations from participating more frequently in codification meetings, AC/135 is considering organising additional workshops dedicated to sponsored countries to be held in conjunction with the future AC/135 partnership meetings. The 2009 PACS meeting is scheduled to occur April 15-17 in Seoul, Korea. Anyone from a PACS nation who would like to attend should contact the PACS secretary, Steven Arnett, at steven.arnett@dla.mil for information. Also, anyone interested in PACS is encouraged to visit the official PACS Web site at www.defence.gov.au/dmo/jlc/pacs.

The Premier Catalogue of References for Logistics

The internet version of the NATO Master Catalogue of References for Logistics (NMCRL) allows access to some 9.5 millions fully-described NATO Stock Numbers and the user interface is available in 11 languages. Forthcoming enhancements will include a link between NSNs and World Customs Organisation 'Harmonized System' codes and integration of the multilingual directory of groups and classes and item name that will be available from a single point of entry: www.natolog.com.

Season Greetings

A unique opportunity rests within AC/135 to exchange "Season Greetings" in 57 languages. AC/135 sends Season Greetings and wishes a Prosperous 2009 to all our Customers and Partners.