

# AC/135 The Group of National Directors on Codification

Codification – The Global Language of Logistics

16<sup>th</sup> Newsletter, September 2012

## NATO Smart Defence

By now you have probably heard of Smart Defense, the NATO theme for its mission in the years ahead. So far, Smart Defense is mostly still in the theoretical stage, but as of the NATO Chicago Summit held in May 2012, the Alliance will actively seek to refine its principles and prepare an action plan to bring them to fruition. Smart defense is based on capability areas that are critical for NATO, in particular those established at the Lisbon summit in 2010: Ballistic missile defense, intelligence, surveillance and re-



connaissance, maintenance of readiness, training and force preparation, effective engagement, and force protection. For the purposes of smart defense, the Alliance nations will give priority to those capabilities that NATO needs most, specialize in what they do best, and look for multinational solutions to shared problems. NATO can act as intermediary, helping the nations to

establish what they can do together at lower cost, more efficiently and with less risk. Two of the things that have done the most to drive Smart Defense are the severe shrinkage of defense budgets in many nations—partly caused by the economic crisis that began in 2008—and the ever changing nature of the defense threats that the Alliance faces.

The core of Smart Defense is the emphasis on cooperative logistics among the nations: that nations will do more things collectively under the umbrella of NATO and fewer things unilaterally. Needless to say, that is likely to mean more responsibilities for NSPA and more opportunities for AC/135 and the NCS.



Closely aligned with Smart Defense is the Connected Forces Initiative (CFI). As the name suggests, CFI involves greater cooperation among NATO nations and partner nations, through training, exercises, and linkage between the logistics networks of national forces. As part of CFI, NATO has defined a number of Work Strands that can be expected to develop into an action plan. Two of the Work Strands relate to codification: Work Strand 7: Examine codification aspects related to CFI and Work Strand 11: Examine ways to establish interoperability within the early stages of product development. In the months ahead, AC/135 will be soliciting ideas from nations about how it can meet those objectives. Smart Defense also places an emphasis on NATO doing

more things with non-NATO partner nations. AC/135 is already a leader in that area, because with 36 partner nation members, it is the largest Allied Committee in NATO.

Smart Defense and CFI will help achieve the goals published in the Summit Declaration on Defense Capabilities: Toward NATO Forces 2020, released during the Chicago Summit: Modern, tightly connected forces equipped, trained, exercised and commanded so that they can operate together and with partners in any environment.

## Inauguration of Jordanian NCB

Under the auspices of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Lt. General (4-star General) Mesha'al M. Al Zabin, on the 19 June 2012, the official opening of the **Jordanian NCB** was attended by a number of senior officers of the armed forces of Jordan. The Director of the NCB, Col. Hussein Batayneh, presented the mission of National



Codification Bureau (NCB) and its future plans during the ceremony. The first activity of the Jordan NCB after its formal opening was a training course for 11 officers from different warehouses, held from 24-30 June, entitled “Introduction to NCS & Codification.” The graduation day photograph is shown above. NCB Jordan plans to hold more courses in the near future.

## Russia joins Tricod



The National Codification Bureau of the Russian Federation, together with the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation of the Russian Federation (FSMTC of Russia), organised the 11<sup>th</sup> International Codification Conference under the theme: “Challenging tasks for codification of products” in Moscow, on 5 and 6 June. The Conference was attended by representatives of Russian governmental authorities, industrial enterprises, scientific-research organizations,

software providers, and delegations from Belarus, India, Greece, Morocco, Ukraine, Poland, Czech Republic and Slovak Republic. Russia has been undertaking initiatives to streamline national processes in creation of cataloguing data and creating more effective national network for exchange of codification information. During the 11<sup>th</sup> confer-

ence, Russia signed an agreement with the Tricod Nations, thus becoming an official member of the Tricod AC/135 Working Group, which is working on codification of commonly used equipment of Soviet origin. Tricod had already codified some 8.500 spare parts for equipment like Mi17, Mi24, MiG-29, BMP-1 and T-72.



From 10-12 April 2012, the first meeting of the **Asia Pacific Codification Group Meeting** was held in Wellington, New Zealand, hosted by the National Codification Bureau of New Zealand. Twenty-five delegates from 10 Asia/Pacific nations attended. In addition, the chairmen of AC/135 and Panel A, the Chief of the Codification Branch, NSPA, and representatives from three companies that make NATO Codification System (NCS) application software were present. George Bond of the United Kingdom, the chairman of NATO AC/135 Main Group, chaired the meeting.

This meeting was convened for the purpose of deciding whether a regular Codification Group meeting should continue be held in the Asia/Pacific region following the closure of the Pacific Area Cataloguing Seminar (PACS), which held its 13th and final meeting last year in Jakarta, Indonesia. PACS was closed down because its members believed it had met its main objective of facilitating nations in the Asia/Pacific in obtaining sponsorship in AC/135: Most of the nations that participated in PACS have now achieved sponsorship, and many of them have reached the Tier 2 level.

After extensive discussions during this meeting, there was a strong consensus among delegates that a regular meeting should continue in the Asia/Pacific Region. During the meeting, the delegates formed a strong rationale for continuing and embodied the

rationale in a new Mission Statement and Terms of Reference (TOR). The new mission is defined this way: To promote the understanding and use of codification, encourage cooperation and facilitate interoperability in logistics operations within the Asia Pacific/Indian Ocean region. The group also defined new TOR, and its key strategic objectives are as follows:



- \* To increase regional participation in codification and assist nations in achieving membership of the NATO Codification System
- \* To provide increased support to HADR (Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Relief), UN PKO (United Nations Peace Keeping Operations), Multi National Logistics and related operations
- \* To develop an APCG business plan
- \* To develop knowledgeable ‘customers’ and ‘users’ familiar with the benefits and operation of the NATO Codification System in the Supply Chain
- \* To facilitate contact and dialogue with Industry, Software Application Providers and other relevant agencies (e.g. non-Government Organizations).

APCG member nations intend to continue its relationship with AC/135 and with the Pacific Area Senior Officers Logistics Seminar. This year’s APCG meeting also included a visit to NCB New Zealand. Mr. Bond and NSPA are in the process of planning an APCG meeting for 2013, probably in April. However, details are not available yet.

**The NATO Master Catalogue of References for Logistics (NMCRL)** will soon receive one of its biggest makeovers since the product was first released. It will have a Basic Mode to go along with the traditional mode that in the future will be called the Advanced Mode. The idea behind the new Basic Mode is to make the product very easy to use for people who are not experts in the NATO Codification System. That should make the NMCRL more useful to our existing customers and more attractive to new customers, especially those in industry. Search results in the Basic Mode will look something like this (zoom to 200% to view screen shot):

New users will no longer need to know any NCS codes to understand the information that is displayed. The labels for data, particularly for reference number data, are more user friendly, and as with today’s NMCRL, a user only needs to place the cursor of their mouse on any code to find the definition of it. Besides making the product easier to use, the Basic Mode will sharply reduce the training required to use the NMCRL. It will be easy to transition between the Basic and Advanced modes. The Basic Mode is currently being tested by NSPA and the NMCRL Pilot Nations and should be available to all users by the end of the summer. At that point, NCBs will be encouraged to do new marketing in their nations to make potential customers aware of this enhancement.

