On 6-7 November 2013, the NATO Group of National Directors on Codification – in cooperation with the Danish Defence Acquisition and Logistics Organization – will be holding the 2nd World Codification forum in Copenhagen. The forum will focus on industry engagement and the future framework for co-operation and consultation among nations. Industry is seen as a key partner in capabilities development through the whole life cycle, especially in the domain of materiel management. The forum will explore opportunities to draw on new technologies, concepts, doctrines and procedures in support of capability development.

The theme of the forum is “Codification and Industry - a Key Partnership and Force Enabler”

As 'The Common Language of Logistics', codification provides a globally recognized means to describe and identify assets in a uniform manner. AC/135 is comprised of representatives from 66 nations (28 NATO and 38 non-NATO members) and is engaged in a wide range of new programs and initiatives in the area of data quality standards, data exchange technologies, asset tracking and master data concepts. The forum will bring together international defence and industry organizations engaged in the global support chain that want to realize the potential of new partnerships and business processes so as to help in achieving effective data management and practical benefits for both defence and industry. Keynote speakers will include Mr E. J. Herold, NATO Deputy Assistant Secretary General, Defence Investment, LTG P. P. Olsen, Chief of the Danish Defence Acquisition and Logistics Organization, Brigadier Mark Dunn, Head of UK Supply Chain Management, and Major General Mohamed TAMDI, Head of the Joint Logistics Bureau of the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces. In addition to the keynote speeches, the forum will include a number of workshops and discussion groups on topics that may be of interest to your organization: ISO Standards 22745 and 8000 – Codification of Services – Use of Performance Based Logistics with the Joint Strike Fighter – Use of the Codification Contract Clause – Defence Industry cooperation on materiel data – ERP systems, etc. Your questions, comments and proposals in the workshops will stimulate the development of initiatives to promote better materiel data management. The exhibition running in parallel with the forum will provide opportunities for networking and direct contacts with Industry representatives from Allan Web, Camcode, ILS, ESG, Aura and others to be announced.

The forum will take place in the Crowne Plaza Copenhagen Towers, with its spacious, Danish-designed interiors and refreshing open areas. At the Copenhagen airport tourist information desk you can, with a tap on an iPad, order a shuttle to the Crowne Plaza, which is a 5-minute drive away. A lively social programme will include a boat trip through the canals of Copenhagen, an official dinner with entertainment by a military band at the Tolboden restaurant, a farewell reception in the Crowne Plaza and tours and excursions for partners. Delegates and accompanying persons will thus be able to make the most of their time and enjoy some Danish hospitality.

Delegate Fees & Registration: Standard fee - 950 DKK (Danish Kroner) per delegate which includes tea / coffee / buffet lunches and the official dinner. Please register at www.conferencemanager.dk/AC/135.

To quote NATO Deputy Secretary General Vershbow1, “Looking ahead, we need to expand our partnerships with countries in our neighbourhood and also beyond it. Partnerships make NATO stronger”. The new Partnership Policy agreed at the 2011 Berlin Summit was seen by partners as an important step towards a more nuanced approach. AC/135 continues to place great emphasis on encouraging wid-

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1 Introductory remarks at the 7th Annual Riga Conference in 2012
The adoption of the NCS and on developing the ability of partner countries to maintain and operate a full range of codification services. Sponsored nations are invited to actively participate in AC/135 Panel A, a forum for discussing and resolving technical issues. The number of topics discussed has been increasing, and the latest meeting resulted in 75 action items—a clear indication of the level of activity among nations. During the meeting, the Brazilian NCB CECAFA reported on the codification seminar it organized during the LAAD exhibition. The seminar focused on Brazilian and international codification activities and included an update on developments in AC/135. This regional meeting is an active approach to tackling the issues and challenges faced by the countries in the region. The Pacific Area Codification Seminar (PACS) and the NORDEFCO Acquisition and Life Cycle Support Sub Group NATO Codification (membership: Norway, Finland, Sweden and Denmark as observer) are other successful regional initiatives in the sphere of codification.

The Group of National Directors on Codification expressed wholehearted thanks to its departing Chairman Mr George Bond (right on the photo) for his leadership and dedication to the codification community. Mr Bond chaired AC/135 through challenging times, leading the community towards expansion and partnership with other organisation and new sponsored countries. The new AC/135 Chairman is Col Marek Dalkowski, Director of the Polish National Codification Bureau and former chairman of the NCS Modernization Working Group.

The 103rd meeting of AC/135 Directors took place at the NATO Support Agency in June this year. There was agreement that the inclusion of the Codification Contract Clause (CCC) in defence contracts and the transmission of codification data would result in fewer rejects of codification requests and improve performance metrics. The particular challenge was to urge procurement authorities to implement the CCC with subcontractors. A number of positive developments were noted such as an implementation among the Nordic countries who had harmonized the CCC for better cooperation within Scandinavian industry. NORDEFCO Acquisition and Life Cycle Support Subgroup NATO Codification, currently chaired by Finland, is focusing on sharing codification experience, elaborating interface applications with Nordic nations’ industry for data exchange. This example of practical regional cooperation between the Nordic countries’ defence community and industry testifies to the benefits arising from applying common procedures and standards in the area of materiel data exchange.

The NCS Transformation Steering Group is currently defining the requirements for the NATO Open Technical Dictionary (NOTD). This project aims to provide a platform for data mapping between industry partners and defence materiel users.

The NMCRL database was expanded to include packaging data and item images which are both now accessible from NMCRL online. Producers and vendors can upload item images to supplement other references, thus enriching their data set for better identification by defence equipment users. Furthermore, trials are being conducted for exchanges of codification data for the Web services and XML data transfers. The currently available basic/advance mode for retrieving data in NMCRL will allow user tailored queries to be built in 2014. The NCS procedures were updated to allow cross-linking with the Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) Classification System and the nations will incrementally include national references with ATC in the NMCRL database.

AC/135’s TRICOD Working Group has focused its activities on codification projects for Mi-24V/35, Mi-17, MiG-29, LAND ROVER vehicle and the CASA 295M transport aircraft. The Russian Federation has taken over from Poland the lead on the codification of MiG-29. Serbia intends to join the Group once its Tier 2 sponsorship status is approved. The next meeting will be organised by the Russian Federation in October 2013. TRICOD members are Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, the Russian Federation and the Slovak Republic, with Slovenia, Serbia and Ukraine as cooperating states.