COVID-19 IMPACT
COVID-19 affected lives and business in a unprecedented scale. AC/135 was forced to call off a series of meetings, but managed to conclude online NABS sessions in order to safeguard business continuity and guarantee continuous relevance of products and services.

CODIFICATION PROJECTS
The NATO Data Exchange Redesign (NDER) project is an AC/135 undertaking to deliver a contemporary, robust and progressive data communications functionality to the NCS using the Extensible Markup Language (XML). NDER is a pivotal project. It will replace the long-standing NATO data exchange standard (NADEX) with the XML state of the art format and thus radically alter the way AC/135 exchanges Codification data. NDER will allow all Codification matters to be performed by codifiers nationally. Despite COVID-19, AC/135 is committed to a January 2022 implementation. Testing is scheduled for mid-2020 (Codification service providers) and from February 2020 to August 2021 (National Codification Bureaux - NCBs). NDER is the mainstay of the AC/135 effort to revolutionise Codification, thus the Group gives the utmost priority to this pivotal project for the future of the NCS and is committed to a flawless implementation. Further information is available at https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/Support/en/Products/NDER

NMCRL
The NATO Master Catalogue of References for Logistics (NMCRL) is the worldwide defence logistics database leader in terms of contents and unmatched functionality. The product is daily updated (online NMCRL WEB) and is also being offered as a downloadable offline version. The NMCRL Web Lite allows for a one-month free trial access period in order to allow potential users to harness the capabilities of the product. The NMCRL is constantly upgraded with ultra-modern functionalities and new data elements thus providing unparalleled customer satisfaction to the war fighter and other worldwide users.

AC/135 STRATEGIC INITIATIVES
Emerging technologies and contemporary requirements led AC/135 to embark on two strategic initiatives: an analysis of the NSN versus part number application in ERPs (focusing on SAP), and a study on additive manufacturing and the NCS. The outcome of these efforts will delineate application of the NCS and fortify its dominance as a contemporary materiel identification scheme.

CODIFICATION TRAINING
AC/135 is determined to promote the NCS via a network of coordinated training initiatives. Belgium, France and the Republic of Korea developed and unceasingly update training elements in the form of Curriculum, Syllabus and E-learning modules. These strengthen NCS awareness, highlight associated benefits, fortify links with the Industry and ultimately enhance the defence products base. The E-learning modules are now available in English, French, Korean, Spanish and Portuguese incorporating enhanced features and functionality.

AC/135 SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME
The Sponsorship programme assists aspirant nations on their way to become members of the NCS and thus reap associated benefits of the system, as well as safeguards continuous high quality of data and services. As of today, 33 non-NATO nations were approved for Sponsorship: 18 at Tier 2 and 15 at Tier 1. Japan was officially proclaimed as Tier 2, where Iraq and Algeria requested for Tier 1 Sponsorship. Future auditing of Codification applications will be performed via the Automatic Testing Tool (ATT), designed to audit applications in an automatic manner, thus drastically lessen manual intervention.

NCB COLLEGE
The 2020 NCB College was cancelled due to COVID-19, however AC/135 is poised to carry on this highly successful educational initiative in the future.

NORDIC DEFENCE COOPERATION (NORDEFCO)
NORDEFCO Area Armament Working Group, NATO Codification, comprises of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden and primarily caters for Codification training to Nordic nations. They also address regional synergies, monitor the NDER project and the impact on legacy systems. Additionally the group focuses on materiel data quality in ERP systems and master data governance.

PACIFIC AREA CATALOGUING SEMINAR (PACS)
PACS is an exemplary case of addressing Codification interactions within the Pacific region and functions as an education forum aiming to promote the NCS though cooperative training efforts.

SOUTH AMERICAN CODIFICATION SEMINAR (SACS)
SACS promotes Codification in South America from a governmental and industrial perspective, and coordinates Logistics efforts in order to enhance the defence products base. Brazil leads an effort to re-assess the SACS organisational structure and membership policy.