PROJECT NDER: A NEW ERA HAS BEGUN

After years of demanding and laborious work, and despite COVID-19 implications, AC/135 have made it: the NATO Data Exchange Redesign (NDER) project, a major milestone in the history of the NCS, was implemented on 10 January 2022 as scheduled and within budget. NDER embarks participating nations into a brave new world of modern, robust and progressive data communications functionality via exploitation of the Extensible Markup Language (XML). Codification operations are now performed within national applications, where NDER will deliver flexibility, simplicity, costs savings and processes rationalization. AC/135 and NSPA currently streamline implementation after-effects as this large-scale project was simultaneously implemented across the AC/135 community. NDER exemplifies AC/135 efforts to invest in innovative technologies, as the Group is poised to respond to contemporary and future requirements in support of the war fighter. Last, but not least, the January 2022 version of the ACodP-1 epitomises a vast range of reengineered codification processes and procedures stemming from the NDER architecture.

AC/135 STRATEGIC PROJECTS

AC/135 is determined to exploit state-of-the-art technologies in response to forthcoming requirements. As such, the Group is presently engaged in the following two strategic studies: additive manufacturing and Codification impact; NSN versus part number within ERP systems. The outcome of these studies will have a major impact on Codification affairs, as it will equally fortify the NCS as the principal military identification scheme and at the same time explore fascinating technological fields and their bearing on Codification.

THE AC/135 SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

The Sponsorship programme is the AC/135 vehicle via which non-NATO nations can participate in the NCS. Since its inception in the 90s, it allowed AC/135 to evolve over time into NATO’s largest Allied Committee. It underpins interoperability efforts, encourages international cooperation, fortifies Codification capabilities and allows AC/135 expertise to be leveraged by Sponsored nations. Today 33 nations are sponsored by AC/135: 19 at Tier 2 and 14 at Tier 1. AC/135 is therefore encouraging nations...
adopting the NCS, promote multinational armaments cooperation and ultimately seek for enhanced interoperability via this highly successful programme.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

As the largest NATO Allied Committee in terms of participation, AC/135 is predominantly a pioneer in regional cooperation. Characteristic cases are the Pacific Area Cataloguing Seminar (PACS), the South American Codification Seminar (SACS) and the NORDEFCO COPA ARMA WG NATO Codification. These forums exemplify and excel international collaboration, exploit Codification synergies, allow for industrial cooperation and underscore the unique and innovative manner that AC/135 operates.

TRAINING

Training is a critical AC/135 enabler, as it allows interested parties to leverage codification capabilities, as well as embraces interactions that promote Codification and its benefits. As such, an E-Learning initiative has been conceived and implemented in order to unravel the NCS procedures, policies and benefits. This multinational undertaking consists of seven training modules in English, French, Korean, Spanish and Portuguese and is available at Contact / NCS Help Center (nato.int)

Apart from that, AC/135 plans to resume the highly successful NCB College training endeavour, as the last iteration was cancelled due to COVID. The NCB College is the meeting point of delegates around the globe pursuing the same enquiries on the NCS and its merits, but also fosters international cooperation in an unprecedented scale. Further information on the 2022 NCB College will be announced via the dedicated AC/135 website.

COVID-19 AND AC/135 MEETINGS

COVID-19 still affects lives and business in a global scale. Despite that, AC/135 managed to execute virtual meetings via application of state-of-the-art software tools safeguarding business continuity and continuous relevance of products, services and projects, focusing mostly on the implementation of NDER. AC/135 is planning to resume physical meetings in 2022, more information will be made available in due course.