

NATO Codification System Modernization: An Overview



Prepared to:
XII PACS Meeting
Sydney, Australia
April 2010

Presented by:
Steven Arnett
U.S. National Codification
Bureau

Steven.arnett@dla.mil

Overview

- In 2008 the Group of National Directors of Codification of NATO Allied Committee 135 established the NATO Codification System Modernization Working Group (NCSMWG)
- The purpose of the NCSMWG is to conduct a top to bottom review to improve the NCS and modernize it, to conform with the latest standards in information technology



Overview

- **The NCSMWG is chaired by Colonel Marek Dalkowski of Poland and contains members from NATO and non-NATO countries that are members of AC/135**
- **The group has met seven times and will continue to meet regularly for the foreseeable future**
- **A goal of the group is to make both short term and long term, transformational proposals**
- **The NCSMWG is a forum for ideas, not decision making—all decisions will be made by the countries collectively through AC/135**

Need for Modernization

- **The NCS data architecture and transactions are based on 1950s punch card technology**
- **The procedures for the NCS as embodied in the NATO Manual on Codification (ACodP-1) are mostly written in text format and are often difficult for non-experts to understand**
- **It is healthy for any organization to question its basic assumptions and procedures from time to time**



Short Term Enhancement Ideas

- **The group has developed ideas that will bring improvement to the NCS in the near term:**
 - **Improved procedures for processing emergency LSA requests**
 - **Developing a process model for LSA procedures**
 - **Enhance the NATO MCRL+ with more user friendly and transparent data labels**
 - **Develop a procedure to include tech data with LSA requests**
 - **Adding images and photos to NSN data**

Long Term Enhancement Ideas

- **The group is working on several issues that will transform the NCS:**
 - **Migrate the NCS to a new data architecture based on XML**
 - **The new data architecture should include an XML methodology to establish and change NSN data**
 - **Automated data exchange with industry using ISO standard 22745**
 - **Integration of the NCS with NATO IT systems, particularly the LogFAS system**

Long Term Enhancement Ideas

- **More ideas that could bring improvement to the NCS in the longer term (more than 1 year):**
 - **Streamline the Item Names and Master Requirements Codes (representing properties of items) used in the NCS and align them better with what is used in industry**
 - **Develop a new taxonomy for the NCS that adapts to an industry standard like the United Nations Standard Products and Services Code (UNSPSC) classification system**

Important Considerations

- **No changes to the NCS will be launched without full discussion of the proposals by all the nations that comprise AC/135**
- **The ideas of all NATO and non-NATO members of AC/135 are welcome and will be an important part of the process**





The NATO Codification System

The future of the NCS is bright but it must change to meet the needs of its users and adapt to current IT standards



Defense Logistics Information Service
A Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Activity



STEVEN ARNETT
Chief, U.S. National Codification Bureau

74 Washington Ave N. DLIS-VBC
Battle Creek, MI 49037-3084
E-Mail: steven.arnett@dla.mil
Web: www.dlis.dla.mil/nato

Phone: (269) 961-7299
DSN: 661-7299
FAX: (269) 961-7299
Customer Service: 888-352-9333

