



# PACSO Forum

Pacific Area Senior Officer Logistics Seminar

Pacific Area Cataloguing System

23 December 2003

*The Key to Interoperability in the Pacific*

Issue 19



## PACSO Forum VI - Wellington New Zealand, August 2003

Contributed by Mr. Stephen Worth International Co-ordination Manager - NZNCB

### Attendees

Australia

Canada

China

Fiji

Indonesia

Japan

New Zealand

Republic of Korea

Russia

Singapore

Thailand

Tonga

United States of America

Despite its reputation as "Windy Wellington", New Zealand's capital city turned on some fabulous weather for the sixth meeting of the PACSO Forum. And this was matched by the number and enthusiasm of the international representatives that attended. A record number of twenty three delegates from thirteen nations were present, including a large party from the People's Republic of China, and for the first time at a PACSO meeting, observers from the Russian Federation. Considering that the meeting had been rescheduled from earlier in the year, and the venue shifted to New Zealand at somewhat short notice, this was a great turn out.

The James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor provided a very convenient central city location, and enabled many of the attendees to get out and about, and see a little bit of the city during their stay. In addition to the busy agenda, the social programme included a guided tour of Te Papa, New

Zealand's National Museum, followed by a sightseeing bus trip and the official dinner at the Skyline Restaurant overlooking the harbour.



A number of significant events took place during the business sessions. Members agreed to review the existing PACSO Charter, to ensure that it continues to meet both current and future needs. Indonesia and the Republic of Korea took



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the opportunity to sign a bilateral agreement on data exchange and cooperation between their Bureaux. Presentations were delivered on a wide range of topics. The United States introduced or updated some current projects, including the Coalition Theatre Logistics Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration, the Multi-Lingual ACodP2/3, and the use of the NCS as a Commercial Standard through ECCMA. Australia provided a comprehensive overview of their new codification tool development – CODEX 3, including a demonstration of some of the early functionality.



New Zealand discussed the creation of *NIINZ* database on CD-ROM, while Singapore provided a very interesting description of their Pre Provisioning Screening Initiative, which has leveraged codification data to reduce the cost of weapon system acquisition through better utilisation of existing inventory. Their real world examples provided concrete evidence of how the NCS can add value to the wider supply chain. More

details about this project are provided in the article on page 4 of this issue.

As always during meetings of this type, we welcomed representatives who were attending their first PACS Forum, and farewelled those



for whom Wellington would be their last. The latter included Mr Richard Grove of Canada, who has served as Chairman for the past two years. Despite being stranded in North America for more than 50 hours due to major power outages that closed many of the airports, Rick persevered with his journey and made it to New Zealand just a day late. His commitment to PACS, and his sense of humour, will be sadly missed.

Unfortunately there were few nominations for a replacement, and reluctantly Mr Paul Kenworthy of Australia agreed to accept an interim Chairmanship, rather than have the post become vacant. It should be kept in mind that

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Paul has already spent more than five years in the role. However, a few weeks after the meeting discussions between the Australian and New Zealand NCBs and PASOLS Representatives resulted in Mr Stephen Worth agreeing to accept the position of Chairman PACS Forum.

Another stalwart of PACS that we farewelled in Wellington was Mr Lynn Schmoll from DLIS. For the last five Forum meetings, Lynn has undertaken the role of Secretary, producing the very comprehensive Agendas, Minutes and Point of Contact listings, without which PACS simply could not function.

He has also been very active behind the scenes, making sure that all the members kept in touch with each other, and that Action Items were completed in due time. We are very grateful for what Lynn has done for the organisation, and wish him all the best for the future.

Overall, PACS Forum VI was another successful meeting, which built on the work of previous PACS events and provided a solid base for the future. Plans are underway for the next meeting, which is to be held in Fiji during 2004. Watch out for more details in the next issue of the Newsletter.



## VISIT BY PLA DELEGATION TO SINGAPORE NCB

*Contributed by Mr. Ronnie Seah, Manager, SAF Cataloguing Authority*

On 19 Nov 2002, the SAF Cataloguing Authority (SAFCA) had the privilege to host a working visit by a delegation of 5 officers from the General Logistics Dept of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), People's Republic of China (PRC)

The purpose of the visit was to enable the PLA delegation to gain a better understanding of the NATO Codification System (NCS). It was timely as the PLA was in the midst of revamping and standardising its own cataloguing system.

During the visit, SAFCA

briefed the PLA delegation on the organisation structure, and roles and functions. The visitors were also given an appreciation of the SAF Cataloguing System and the cataloguing activities performed in support of logistics operations in the Singapore Armed Forces. A demonstration on SAFCA's cataloguing tool, SCIS 2 was also arranged.

The PLA delegation showed considerable interests in the NCS as they raised many pertinent questions. Views and insights were freely exchanged

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during the discussion. At the end of the visit, the PLA delegation expressed their heartfelt appreciation and mentioned that the trip had been most fruitful for them, and the lessons learnt would be useful in the formulation and implementation of their national cataloguing system. It was Singapore's pleasure to host the visit as it provided SAFCA with the opportunity to share and interact with fellow logisticians from the PLA.

Such visits help to foster mutual understanding and closer co-operation among the PACS member Nations.



Discussions between SAFCA and PLA

## PRE-PROVISIONING SCREENING

Contributed by Aw York Lin, Senior Manager, SAF Cataloguing Authority

In providing cataloguing support to new weapon systems acquisition, the role of the SAF Cataloguing Authority (SAFCA) is not confined to the assignment of NATO Stock Numbers (NSN) for contracted supply support items. SAFCA makes use of the rich cataloguing database to carry out value-add activities such as Item Entry Control and Pre-Provisioning Screening (PPS) to enhance Supply Chain Management in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF).

PPS is an initiative recently introduced by SAFCA. It is a process whereby items the Armed Forces intend to purchase at the weapon systems acquisition phase, are screened against the existing inventory. Items found in the inventory are evaluated with Provisioning Agencies in the

Service Logistics Department, to ascertain if there are surplus or dead stock to be released to support the new weapon system. Cost savings can be achieved for items and quantities that need not be purchased as a result of this activity.

Through PPS, it is possible to compare prices of items offered by the contractor, with the last purchase prices of items found in the inventory. The Project Management Team (PMT) could leverage on this piece of the information to negotiate for a more favorable pricing. This is useful for items where the contractor's quoted prices are significantly higher than the last purchase prices.

The process for the PPS is depicted in this chart (see Page 5).

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PPS was carried out on a few projects with encouraging results. In a recent case, out of 498 line items initially recommended by the contractor, 51 of them were deleted from the final spares listing, as existing stocks in the inventory could support the new equipment. For the comparison of the last purchase prices, 50 line items had their quoted prices reduced.

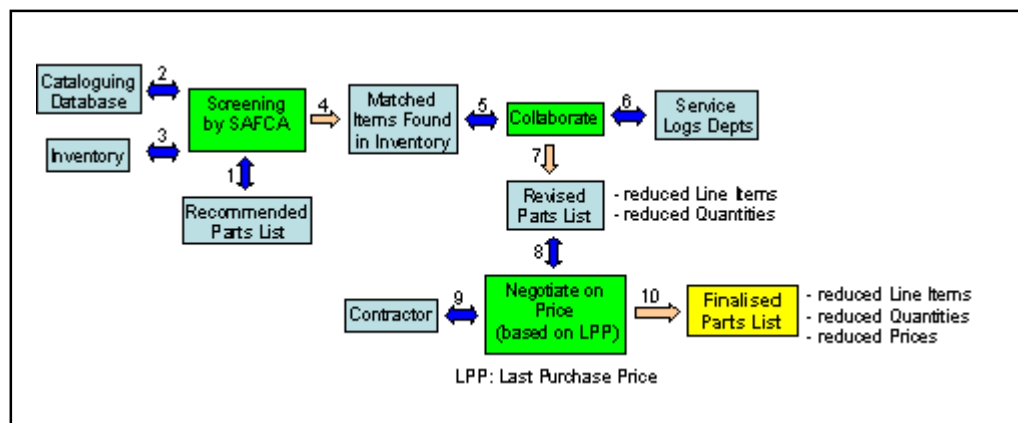
Overall, a total cost saving of \$165,000 was achieved for this project.

This represents about 3% of the initial costs of supply support

items recommended by the contractor.

The SAF Cataloguing System is based on the NCS.

It has become an integral component of supply Chain in the Singapore Armed Forces. The cataloguing function should not be restricted to the generation of stock numbers. It has to continually add value to Supply Chain Management. PPS is now part of weapon systems acquisition process, and utilises the rich cataloguing database to 'unlock' value for logisticians.



## MAFCA VISIT DOWN UNDER

Contributed by Malaysian National Codification Bureau, MAFCA

Three officers from Malaysian NCB, MAFCA consisting of Lt Col Mohd Fisoll Aziz as the Director, Major Muhd Shafiq and Major Mohamad Saupi, made a study visit to the Australian NCB from 13th – 19th October 2003.

The aim of the visit was to make an interim study on the new cataloguing system called

CODEX 3 that is being developed in-house by the Australian NCB to replace the old CENCAT system. This is in view with MAFCA's long term planning to improve and upgrade our present cataloguing system called MAFCAS and subsequently becoming a TIER 2 country.

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LTCOL Fisoll and MAJ Shafiq with Clive Hardisty, CODEX-3 Test Manager at ISD

Paul Kenworthy, the Australian NCB Director prepared a hectic programme, which included the presentations by the three main agencies in the CRP (CENCAT Replacement Project) i.e, the NCB as the business owner and users, the project management group and the project development group. The MAFCA team also had the opportunity to visit the Maritime and Land System Codification Sections situated at Melbourne Defense Plaza and ISD (Information Systems Division) at Canberra.

After all the long hard work in



MISD Project staff, Kon Kalantzis and Colin Glanville with the MAFCA team

Melbourne and Canberra, Paul Kenworthy drove the visitors to Sydney to have some deserved “rest” during the

weekend – that means more money to spend and shopping – before departing back to Kuala Lumpur on Sunday evening.



DNCB with Claude Ripoll, CODEX-3 Development Manager at ISD and MAJ Shafiq

MAFCA sincerely thanks the Australian NCB and community as well as its Director, Paul Kenworthy for the rare opportunity to visit and learn more about CODEX 3 and to discuss and share common problems and look ahead at what the future holds on cata-



Dave Woodall, business analyst at the NCB demonstrates the partially completed CODEX-3 application

loguing. The outcome – CODEX 3 has a great potential to become one of the most comprehensive codification systems and bring huge impact to the cataloguing business processes.



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MAFCA have shown high interest in CODEX 3 and hopefully it can be extended to other NCS nations in the future. This visit clearly underlined the close working relationship both NCBs have developed over the years.

Many thanks again to Mr. Paul Kenworthy and the Australian NCB for their hospitality and we wish them good luck for all their undertaking and making CODEX 3 a successful project.



## From the Chairman

### Kia Ora Kotou, Greetings from Aotearoa - New Zealand

As most of you know, Mr Richard Grove of Canada stepped down as Chairman of the PACS Forum following our last meeting in Wellington. I would like to again thank Rick, on behalf of all the PACS members, for his efforts over the last two years. His determination to get to PACS Forum VI, despite tremendous difficulties caused by power outages and airport closures in North America, was a clear example of his commitment to PACS. We wish him well for his impending retirement.

As this is my first contribution to the Newsletter in the role of Chairman, I would like to reflect upon where PACS has come from, and to offer some thoughts on where we might go in the future.

It was in 1994 at PASOLS XXIII, that Canada proposed the creation of a Pacific Area Cataloguing System (PACS). The concept was to develop a common cataloguing system for countries of the Pacific Rim, based upon the concepts and principles of the NATO Codification System (NCS). It should be kept in mind that at that time, the opportunities for non-NATO, and particularly non-European, nations to participate in the NCS were limited. PACS was seen as a separate system, which while it used all of the same rules and procedures as the NCS, would have to exist as a discrete entity.

Since that time the situation has changed significantly. The PACS Working Groups quickly established a framework for co-operation, which has been taken forward by the annual PACS Forum meetings. A number of initiatives were begun, including Pacific Partnership Arrangement (formerly known as "Big Brother") where an established NCB agreed to provide codification services to other PACS nations who did not possess the necessary infrastructure and expertise to undertake codification on their own. Numerous training exchanges took place, and investigations were begun into ways of making better use of item data, including CD-ROMs for Disaster Relief, and websites for the exchange of information on spares and disposals.

Meanwhile, great change was also underway with the NATO Codification System. The New World Order resulting from the end of the Cold War meant that the Alliance had to change the way in which it engaged with other nations. The Group of National Directors on Codification (AC/135) was one of the most proactive committees in this regard. Recognising that the globalisation of the NCS would benefit both NATO members and non-NATO nations, they revised the Sponsorship Rules in 1997, and opened up the NCS to encompass both hemispheres and all continents.

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As part of this process, they devised many programmes and processes that were similar in nature and function to PACS initiatives, including BASELOG and SHARE.

As a result of these developments within AC/135, the focus of PACS has moved away from needing to maintain a separate system, based upon the NCS. The goal now is to provide a means for Pacific Rim countries to learn more about the principles and practices of codification, and to assist them towards sponsorship within the NCS. And we have been very effective in this regard. Of the twenty-five PASOLS member nations, two are full NATO members, three are Tier Two Sponsored countries with one more application currently being processed, while another five are Sponsored nations at the Tier One level.

With almost half of the PASOLS countries now participating in the NCS, I believe that it is time to revisit the aim and mission of the PACS Forum. At the sixth meeting in Wellington, the delegates agreed to review the current PACS Charter and the continued requirement for PASTAGs. This will be a useful exercise that should serve to focus our thoughts, but it is vital that we get input from all of the members.

As I take up the role of Chairman, I note that in the ten-year history of PACS this position has only been held by three different countries – Canada, Australia and New Zealand. While there are some obvious advantages in having an experienced person from a NATO or Tier 2 Sponsored NCS country, it is not beneficial for PACS to keep relying on the same small group. We must have more active involvement from the wider membership, and particularly from the newer nations. NATO and Tier 2 countries have their focus firmly on AC/135 activities, and because we have been codifying for thirty or forty years, it is easy to forget the difficulties that a country faces in starting up a NCB and implementing the NCS.

If PACS is to remain an effective organisation, there must be more input from Tier 1 nations and those that are not currently sponsored. At the beginning of next year I intend to undertake a survey, to find out how we can alter the format of Forum meetings, to better meet the needs of the members. My own impression is that a stronger emphasis on training and examining real world problems and solutions would be more beneficial. However, the most important thing is for the members themselves to suggest what kind of support and assistance they would like to receive through PACS.

The previous PACS Chairmen, Denis Lampron, Jim Burns, Paul Kenworthy and Rick Grove have achieved a great deal, and left me a lot to live up to. Over the last decade, PACS has been built up from nothing, to an effective organisation that has gone a long way to increasing logistic interoperability throughout the Pacific Rim. However, it must continue to evolve, and adapt to changing circumstances and the differing requirements of its members, if we are to continue this success for the next ten years. That is our challenge.

Finally, I would like to wish those of you that celebrate it a very happy festive season, and I hope that everyone has a successful 2004. I am looking forward to working with each one of you, and to having the pleasure of your company at the next PACS Forum in Fiji.

Kind regards,

Stephen Worth  
International Co-ordination Manager – NZ NCB  
Chairman PACS Forum