



# PACS

Pacific Area Cataloguing Seminar

17 December 2004

The Key to Interoperability in the Pacific

Issue 21



## PACS FORUM VII - MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Contributed by Mr. Paul Kenworthy, Director Australian National Codification Bureau

### Attendees

Australia

Brunei  
Darussalam

Indonesia

Malaysia

New Zealand

Papua New  
Guinea

Republic of  
Korea

Singapore

Thailand

United States of  
America



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Financial restraints and problems caused by severe storms meant that the Republic of Fiji Military Forces had to reluctantly cancel plans to host the PACS meeting in Nadi, Fiji in mid 2004. To ensure that the impetus gained by this important PASOLS initiative over the last few years was not lost, Australia belatedly agreed to host the meeting for the third time in Melbourne from 24 to 26 August. Old plans were quickly dusted off and invitations sent out.

A record 23 delegates from 13 nations attended last years PACS meeting in Wellington, NZ but the late notice this year contributed to the slightly disappointing attendance of only 16 delegates from 10 nations. However attendees made up for a lack of numbers with their enthusiasm and energy. It was good to have representation and input again from Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea after an absence.

The agenda for PACS Forum VII contained the usual mix of business sessions and informative presentations. Highlights this year were briefings by the USA on Homeland Emergency Logistics Preparedness Publication (HELPP), Unique Identification (UID), ECCMA Open Technical Dictionary (e O T D), W E B L I N K



New PACS Chairman, Mr Stephen Worth (NZ) and new Secretary, Mr Steve Arnett (USA) presided over their first PACS meeting following the retirements of Mr Rick Grove (Canada) and Mr Lynn Schmoll (USA). The meeting saw important decisions made about the future strategies and direction that PACS should take. Having Mr Rick Maison, the current Chairman of NATO AC/135, in attendance was of great benefit in ensuring that PACS is better aligned with NATO strategies and activities.

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International, summary of AC/135 activities, Multilingual ACodP-2/3 and the 10<sup>th</sup> NATO Symposium on Codification. Singapore also gave a presentation on Restructuring of the SAF Cataloguing Authority while Australia demonstrated their new CENCAT-3 codification system (formerly called CODEX-3).

This year the new PACS Chairman, Mr Stephen Worth, ably assisted by the new Secretary, Mr Steve Arnett, encouraged delegates to think about the future direction of the PACS Forum. He argued that the original idea for a separate system was now outdated given the closer relationship with NATO. Other suggestions for improvement concerned

changes to the format and content of meetings to better meet the needs of participants. To facilitate discussions the Chairman suggested that the Forum break into workshops. This experiment worked very well and resulted in a change of name (but keeping the acronym – see masthead) and terms of reference. The Logistics Steering Group at PASOLS 33 in Brunei Darussalam has ratified these changes.

At the conclusion of the meeting, PACS participants were whisked away to the famous Healesville wildlife sanctuary on the outskirts of Melbourne to experience the unique sights, sounds and scents of the Australian bush. I think all agreed that walking



For many PACS delegates it was their first close encounter with some of Australia's unique animals such as kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, Tasmanian devils, echinidas, platypus, emus, koalas and dingoes. Stephen Worth ponders why 'the Wallabies' have such a fearsome reputation in NZ.

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through the bush on a mild, sunny afternoon in Winter, after three hectic days of

cataloguing discussions and presentations, was a great way to wind down.



**Back row L to R:** Ronnie Seah (Singapore), Stephen Worth (NZ), Lt Col Zulkefri bin Omar (Malaysia), Paul Kenworthy (Australia)

**Centre Row L to R:** Col Eua-Aree Maneekhao (Thailand), Dennis Grimes (Australia), Steve Arnett (USA), Capt Suzana Haji Antin (Brunei), Victor Manulong (Indonesia)

**Front Row L to R:** Hee Myeong Ko (Rep of Korea), Bernard Aw York Lin (Singapore), Wartoyo (Indonesia), Lt Col Lee Heon Soo (Rep of Korea), Gary Lampard (Australia) Absent: Ibowa Iwi (PNG) – delayed flight.



## FAREWELL TO THAI COLLEAGUE

After three years as Director, Materiel Information Management Office (MIMO) and Thai delegate to PACS, Colonel Eua-Aree Maneekhao announced during PACS Forum VII that she has been posted to J3, Supreme Command Headquarters. She thanked all her friends in PACS and NATO AC/135 for their cooperation with Thailand on the NCS. The new Director of MIMO is Colonel Thana Shiangthong.



COL Eua-Aree, on the left, with American and Chinese colleagues in Wellington, NZ in 2003.

# WHO USES CATALOG DATA?



Contributed by Lynn Schmoll, US NCB (Retired)

They quietly provide information to keep the wheels of logistics going. Catalogers around the world daily feed a standard system used by virtually all logisticians.

What information? In the Pacific, Asia, Europe, North and South America, it is called the NATO Codification System (NCS). It amounts to one standard, worldwide approach for recording information about items of supply and suppliers. Each country, however, may have its own name to their variation of the approach; in the U.S. it is called the Federal Catalog System.

The Pacific Area Cataloging Seminar (PACS) has the role of advocating and educating about the system in their region of the world. The NATO Allied Committee 135, in which PACS countries play a role, maintains the international standard.

National Stock Numbers (NSNs, also called NATO Stock Numbers) are index numbers to item of supply information. Commercial and Government Entity codes (CAGE) is the key to information about suppliers. Together they provide a wealth of information for logisticians. There

are more than 16 million active numbers between the participating nations.

The catalog information is available in multiple products and media, such as:

- ◆ NATO Master Catalogue of References for Logistics
- ◆ PACS Master Cross Reference List (PACS MCRL)
- ◆ National products, such as FED LOG
- ◆ Routine direct data pushes
- ◆ Commercial data providers

The supply sergeant in Korea must use the same data as the Defense Supply Center Columbus (U.S.) in order for requisitions to flow. Otherwise there might be chaos, waste and mission failure if all of these players used different sets of information about items of supply. Logistics today is so complicated that it is essential for everyone to work from the same sets of data.

So, who uses catalog information? Answer: nearly everyone in logistics and then some.

The following provides examples of users of standard catalog data.

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<b>Users of Catalog Information</b>	<b>Typical Questions</b>	<b>How the Catalog Provides Answers</b>
<b>FINANCIAL MANAGERS AND ACCOUNTING TECHNICIANS</b>	How much does it cost? Can it be re-used? How much are we spending? Can we get it cheaper?	Provides key financial information necessary to predict and capture costs.
<b>BUYERS</b>	Is it already stock listed? Are we being overcharged? What should we call this? Is technical data available? Who makes this item?	Shows key logistics support decisions made by — Equipment Specialist — Item Manager — Codifier Provides identification information. Shows supplier information for potential sources/promotes competitive bidding. Provides technical information or an NSN/ Part Number to help locate technical information.
<b>MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS</b>	What is the NSN for this item so I can advise government customers?	Provides a cross reference between manufacturer part numbers and NSNs.
<b>SUPPLY MANAGERS PROGRAM MANAGERS, WEAPONS SYSTEM SUPPORT MANAGERS</b>	What's the last recorded price? Who manages the item? What FSC is it? Is it repairable? What is the shelf life?	Records initial logistics support decisions. Records changes to those decisions throughout life cycle. Provides means to notify all users of changes.
<b>REQUISITION PROCESSERS (e.g. DAAS)</b>	Who manages the item?	Provides source of supply information for the Defense. Automated Address System to direct requisitions to the correct source.
<b>TRANSPORTATION WORKERS</b>	What is it called? Is it hazardous? What is the value? What is the unit of issue? What is the freight classification?	Answers these questions and more and provides input to daily transportation processing.
<b>PROVISIONERS</b>	Does this item already have an NSN?	Avoids duplicate items in the supply system through prescreening proposed new items. Saves at least 30% on avoiding redundant inventory
<b>HIGH LEVEL LOGISTICIANS</b>	How can I have asset visibility?	NSN's provide a standard way of identifying items of supply. Without it there is little possibility of full asset visibility
<b>WAREHOUSEMEN</b>	What is it? What's the shelf life? Does it contain hazardous chemicals? Packaging data available? Is it likely to be stolen?	Indicates hazardous material content, precious metals content, physical security requirements, and other characteristics. Helps identify items returned from the field.
<b>UNIT SUPPLY TECHNICIANS</b>	What is the NSN? How much does it cost? What is the unit of issue?	Provides all information needed to identify and place requisitions
<b>MAINTENANCE WORKER</b>	What is it? Where can I get it? Is it stocked? Local purchase? Can I substitute part B if I can't get part A? Who makes it? What's the mean time between failures? Is it a "throw away" item?	Takes the "wrench turner" from repair manual to the supply system  Provides information on alternate sources, substitutable parts, interchangeability, and so forth
<b>FMS LOGISTICIANS</b>	What data do I need for my Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case? What countries use this item?	Provides identification data used worldwide. Provides user registration for every U.S. service and foreign governments.
<b>DISPOSAL WORKERS</b>	What is it? Are there precious metals we can recover? Is demilitarization required? How can we safely dispose of it? Can it be recycled?	Provides demilitarization information. Enables Precious Metals recovery. Helps ensure environmentally sound disposal.



10th International Symposium on  
**CODIFICATION**  
10th - 13th October 2005  
Edinburgh, Scotland

## *Codification – The DNA of Modern Logistics*

A 3-1/2-day international conference and exhibition to examine the role of the NATO Codification System as a key enabler for an effective and integrated Logistics Supply Chain.



### **Delegates will have the opportunity to:**

- Consider the role of the NATO Codification System as the 'common language' of Logistics
- Hear keynote speakers and expert views from around the world on a wide range of Supply Chain issues.
- Meet international delegates and business leaders from Defence and Industry.
- Attend a series of interactive workshops to explore specific topics in detail.



### **Key Topics Include:**

- The Principle & Benefits of the NATO Codification System
- International Standards for Product Data
- Defence and Industry Partnering
- Asset Tracking and Visibility Throughout The Supply Chain
- NATO Interoperability and Standardisation

The Symposium will be held in the centrally located Edinburgh International Conference Centre within comfortable modern purpose-built facilities.



"Credit: Harvey Wood, Douglas Corrance & Marius Alexander"

Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland with its historical backdrop of the Castle and Arthur's Seat, Holyrood Palace and the Royal Mile, the Georgian New Town and Princess Street Gardens is an impressive setting in which to hold the Symposium. Most of the city attractions are within walking distance of the Symposium venue and it is easily accessible by air, rail or road. Edinburgh also offers a very wide range of accommodation in superb hotels and the quality of hospitality to be found in the many bars and restaurants are world-renowned.

**Register your interest at: [www.codification2005.org](http://www.codification2005.org)**

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## From the Chairman

Dear Colleagues,

2004 has proven to be a significant year for PACS. The seventh Forum meeting held in Melbourne has proven to be a significant watershed, from which our organisation has emerged with a new name, revised goals and new plan for the future.

After looking back on the significant achievements of the past ten years, it was necessary to re-evaluate the goals and practices of PACS. Due to the changes that have taken place within the AC/135 community, it is no longer necessary to operate a separate stand-alone codification system for the Pacific Area. However, there is a very important role in co-ordinating our efforts, and spreading the knowledge and expertise in cataloguing best practice among the nations in our region.

Forum VII resulted in three key recommendations being made to PASOLS. First, that the name should be changed to acknowledge that PACS is no longer a system in its own right, but a group that co-operates for mutual benefit. However, the acronym PACS has widespread recognition, so it was decided to change the title to the Pacific Area Cataloguing Seminar. Second, that PACS documentation be revised to reflect the new goals, and that forms, processes and publications which duplicate those used by AC/135 be deleted. Third that the format and structure of the annual PACS meeting be changed to better meet the needs of the participants, and to encourage a wider spread of nations to act as host.

These three recommendations were reported to the 33<sup>rd</sup> PASOLS in Brunei Darussalam in September. I am pleased to advise that the Logistic Steering Group approved all of the changes and endorsed the continuing efforts of PACS. I will be working with some of the more experienced PACS delegates to draft some revised documents for approval at the next annual meeting.

In Melbourne I also advised my intentions regarding the location of the next meeting. Ideally, one of the members will volunteer to host a meeting in their nation during 2005. However, if a suitable candidate does not come forward by the end of February, the annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the 10<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Codification in Edinburgh. I would ask all PACS members to give this matter serious consideration and contact me at the earliest opportunity.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for their support in my role as Chairman. It has been a momentous year for me both in my working and personal life. I look forward to working closely with you all next year as we chart a new course for PACS. Best wishes for the festive season and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Stephen Worth  
PACS Chairman