



PACSL Forum

Pacific Area Senior Officer Logistics Seminar

Pacific Area Cataloguing System

19 May 2003

The Key to Interoperability in the Pacific

Issue 18



Unity of Effort in International Logistics

The NATO Codification System provides the "dictionary"

Contributed by Mr. Lynn Schmall, DLIS International Division

Unity of effort in multinational tactical operations is often easier to achieve than in multinational logistics. Why? A main reason is the variation of logistics information between countries.

"All U.S. military logistics systems -- and many of the systems of our allies and friends--require the discipline of standard, high quality data to inter-operate. How else could a hard-charging U.S. supply soldier in Afghanistan effectively communicate requisitions one-third the way around the world to De-

ense Supply Center Philadelphia," said Marine Col Joseph Cassel Jr., commander of the Defense Logistics Information Service (DLIS). "The power and promise of better IT and increased bandwidth would be diminished without the exchange of accurate, timely, complete logistics data. Both the military buyer and the Defense Logistics Agency, or contracted supplier, demand the best logistics data to jointly achieve military readiness, sustainability, and efficiency."

According to Cassel, the same tenet holds true for international logistics cooperation between countries. "Standard logistics information provides the capacity for military allies to find and share supplies, as well as to leverage manufacturing economies to meet common defense needs. This force

multiplier can save precious strategic lift, help win battles, and preserve the peace," Cassel said.

Logistics' Quiet Corner

The most powerful tool for standardization and interoperability actually comes

from logistics' quietest corner—cataloging. The NATO Codification System (NCS) is effectively the world standard for classifying, describing and numbering items of supply. It provides a broad range of information about each item used in participating countries' supply systems.

In countries with advanced logistics systems, cataloging is most often taken for granted. It is assumed that critical items of supply will



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have assigned National Stock Numbers (NSNs, also referred to as NATO Stock Numbers). It is assumed that tools like the FEDLOG will have the needed information.

In over twenty other countries, however, implementation of the NCS is a priority concern. Thailand, for example, is actively working to integrate this system into their logistics operations. Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and the Republic of Korea have long utilized this system.

Only one NSN is assigned for an item in NATO (and participating countries); therefore, the NSN 1005-00-26—7102 indicates the same cartridge magazine in every participating country and is currently actively used in Denmark, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Spain and Turkey. If a U.S. supply sergeant asked a Greek supply sergeant for a 6510-00-597-7468, each will know that an adhesive bandage is being requested.

How Standard Data Supports Interoperability

Joint Procurements: U.S. and NATO policy (and the cost of weapon systems) drive joint development and procurement. The NCS is the foundation for identifying items to support initial supply and re-supply functions. Examples include:

- Australia and New Zealand routinely form combined efforts in joint procurement of equipment. The parts are subsequently cataloged and allow further joint procurement as needed.
- The Joint Strike Fighter continues to attract countries at various levels of involvement. This includes Australia, Canada, Singapore and the U.S. as well as European partners. The spares will

be cataloged by the country of origin and published for NCS participants. This will allow interoperability of maintenance and supply down the road.

- The NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA) has long been a central procurer of parts for NATO countries, obtaining cost benefits by economy of scale, an accomplishment impossible without common supply data.

In the field, supplies are exchanged. If one unit is out of a critical item, it is common to ask another unit if they have some, even if this involves different nationalities. The NCS provides the basis for this cooperation. The respective supply sergeants may not know each other's language, but they both know the international language of supply: the NCS and its NSNs.

Maintenance relies on supply and cataloging. For example the NAMSA-owned PATRIOT Maintenance Facility (PMF) performs maintenance on the US, German and Netherlands missile system in Europe.

Asset Visibility of supplies would be nearly futile without a standard catalog system. The Coalition Theater Logistics effort by USPACOM and Australia is a view into the future. Working with Thailand and others the purpose is to share visibility of critical assets and improve logistics interoperability.

Foreign Military Sales: The U.S. program for support to allied and friendly nations reached \$8.8 billion in 2001. The majority of the transactions (less major end items and some commercial items) were processed on the basis of NSNs. Recipient countries know that the best way to identify their needs is with an NSN. Without this standard, one can only imagine the

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communication problems that would occur.

Support is available

The Pacific Area Cataloging System (PACS) is a PASOLS initiative that seeks to improve logistics interoperability in the Pacific. The primary means is to encourage the use of the NCS by participating countries.

Country representatives work together to exchange training, ideas and data. As a result slow but steady progress is being made as more countries adopt the standard into their logistics systems.

Catalog data to support interoperability is routinely published. For example:

- The PACS Master Cross Reference List provides access to supply data for Pacific countries.
- The NATO Master Cross Reference List (NMCRL) provides a complete listing of all items cataloged in the NATO community and certain non-NATO countries (Australia, New Zealand and Singapore). This will expand in the future to include items cataloged by many more participating countries such as NATO Partnership for Peace countries, as well as Brazil, Malaysia, etc. (See <http://www.nato.int/structur/AC/135/nmcrl/start.htm>.)
- FED LOG provides the most complete catalog of items used in the U.S. government while LOGRUN and WEBFLIS provide similar data on line (see <http://www.dlis.dla.mil/>).
- Many countries produce their own national catalogs.

The E-Future

E-Business and E-Logistics:

Electronic media demand standards. The NCS provides the discipline for naming and describing items of supply. Recently the Electronic Commerce Code Management Association (ECCMA) adopted portions of the system as the international commercial standard for describing items. In addition, the NCS is actively working with the International Standards Organization standards such as Parts Library (PLIB) and STEP (Standard for the Exchange of Product model data).

“Without a common supply language, we can’t identify our own requirements, and we can’t satisfy others’ requirements,” said Australian Air Commodore Paul Ekin-Smyth, co-chair of the last Pacific Area Senior Officers Logistics Seminar (PASOLS). The NCS has been, is now and will increasingly be just that—the common language for supply logisticians.

Thus we cannot have unity of effort in logistics without unity of information. For more information about the NCS see <http://www.dlis.dla.mil/NATO> and <http://www.dlis.dla.mil/NATO/links.asp> for related links. Please send comments and questions to Schmoll at lynn.schmoll@dlam.mil or call the Battle Creek Customer Contact Center at (888) 352-9333.

CATALOG DETECTIVE AGENCY

Contributed by Lynn "Sherlock Holmes" Schmoll, LSA Focal Point for US NCB



As you know, operating a NCB often feels like we are running a "detective agency". We are given a few clues regarding an item of production and asked to complete the investigation.

Like any detective work, the better the clues, the faster and more accurate (not to mention less costly) the detective's result.

Our most difficult cases to crack pertain to large companies. In working with them we sometimes are unsuccessful because one department does not know what the other is doing. Many companies (e.g., Raytheon, Boeing, Lockheed, Microsoft, Northrop Grumman, Textron) are huge! If we do not have a clue about the end item then our chances of successful detective work are low.

Unfortunately, we do not have the staff to spend long hours investigating single LSA requests. Our catalogers average about 1.5 hours per LSA out of necessity! This time may be spread out over many weeks as we wait for manufacturers to respond to our inquiries.

On the maintenance side we have a similar circumstance. (please refer ACodP1 474.1, second sentence). If we do not have technical data to back up the request (when needed) then we again become detectives. When you request maintenance on a U.S. item and when it is necessary for us to collaborate

with another U.S. service, they are allowed approximately 60 days.

If they do not have good technical information to back up the requested change, two bad results can happen:

- they will take longer than 60 days, sometimes many months.
- Or, they will disapprove due to a lack of information.

We have taken several actions over the years to improve processing of cataloging.

- We have concentrated on our outgoing LSAs. This includes involvement in provisioning processes, and providing training to people who initiate LSAs. As a result the percent of K27s we receive has dropped and your catalogers are hopefully a bit happier.

- We continue to work to improve research tools and techniques for catalogers. We are now exploring an automated detective (data mining tool) to simplify some basic research for the catalogers...allowing us more time to concentrate on more difficult cases. We will, of course, share our results!

- For maintenance we formed a separate maintenance team who concentrates on this work. This has improved the speed and quality of our work. Our management gets involved and routinely follows up when our military



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services do not respond to our requests.

By these methods we have been successful in reducing the timeframes.

When you receive a K27 from us

or a maintenance request returned without action, and you believe that the mistake was ours, please write me with your thoughts as soon as possible. We can all learn from these instances. This honest dialogue can only be helpful to both of our organizations!



SAFCA-INDUSTRY DATA EXCHANGE AND REVIEW EXERCISE (SINDEX)

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

Product identification reference numbers such as the MPNs and Model Numbers, as well as other product details are captured and recorded for each NATO Stock Number (NSN). During the product life cycle, they are subjected to upgrades, modification or supersession due to obsolescence. Consequently, their reference numbers could be changed or modified accordingly. It is important that changes in product identification in-

formation be updated in the Singapore Armed Forces' Cataloguing Information System (SCIS) database.

For this reason, the SAFCA-Industry Data Exchange and Review Exercise (SINDEX) was

initiated, for SAFCA to collaborate with our major contractors and vendors, to enhance and update their product identification numbers and details. SINDEX involves the data verification and updating of records between our cataloguing database (SCIS) and those of our major vendors' databases, on a periodic basis. It serves to ensure item data integrity, accuracy and currency be-

tween our databases. This will in turn improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness in materiel and logistics support that we render to our customers, the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF). Some other benefits of SINDEX include:

- a. parts going out of production could be highlighted and the SAF could be alerted to take follow-up actions early (eg. to stock up).
- b. obsolete parts can be identified and downgraded or removed from the database.
- c. reduces item rejection at the warehouse receipt points by eliminating part number discrepancies, thereby reducing unnecessary administrative delays in the supply chain.
- d. ensures users procure the right items from the right sources, thereby reducing unnecessary delays during procurement.
- e. builds up rapport and encourages closer collaboration with major manufacturers and vendors.

SAFCA has conducted the SINDEX with a few of our local Defense Companies, and will continue to do so as part of our on-going data verification process, with other major vendors and manufacturers that have substantial business dealings with the SAF.



SAF's Light Strike Vehicle

TEST YOUR PACS KNOWLEDGE

Contributed by Michael Pignataro, DLIS



1. Which of the following standardization agreements were implemented for the operation of a uniform system of classification and identification of items of Supply?
 - a. Standard NATO Agreements (STANAGs) 3150 3151.
 - b. Pacific Standard Agreement (PASTAG) #1.
 - c. PASTAG #2.
 - d. All of the above.

2. Which of the following statements best describe the PACS Partnership Arrangement?
 - a. An email group.
 - b. PACS program created to encourage nations seek assistance in adoption and implementation of the NATO Codification System.
 - c. A purchasing group.
 - d. A shopping catalog.

3. Who is responsible for AcodP-1 publication and maintenance?
 - a. NATO countries.
 - b. Defense Logistics Information Service.
 - c. AC/135.
 - d. NAMSA.

4. Which of the following tasks is performed by NAMSA?
 - a. Organizes AC/135 meetings and builds meeting agenda.
 - b. Manages the NATO MCRL and NATO Mailbox System.
 - c. Runs the sponsorship and BASELOG programs.
 - d. All of the above.

5. Non-NATO countries that adopt the NATO Codification System (NCS), either completely or partially can be divided into two categories. Those categories are:
 - a. Sponsored Country or non-sponsored country
 - b. Partner nations or non-partner nations.
 - c. Allied nations or non-allied nations.
 - d. Cooperative nations or non-cooperative.

6. Tier 1 sponsorship countries also known as
 - a. Two-way data exchange.
 - b. Multiple-way data exchange.
 - c. One-way data exchange.
 - d. All of the above.

7. Tier 2 sponsorship countries also known as
 - a. One-way data exchange.
 - b. Two way data exchange.
 - c. Multiple-way data exchange.
 - d. All of the above.

8. The relationship of bar codes to NCS:
 - a. Will eventually replace NSNs.
 - b. Behavior code for NCS codifiers who are out on the town.
 - c. Are typically included in the NCS (as part numbers).
 - d. Are like apples and oranges, you can't compare them.

The U.S. "NCB College" teaches these topics and many more! Officially known as the Logistics Information Management Course for International Logisticians it is assigned MASL Number B151924 for FMS purposes. For more information see http://www.dlis.dla.mil/nato/ncbc_home.asp or write mary.lloyd@dlm.dla.mil

1D,2B,3D,4D,5A,6C,7B,8C



PACS FORUM VI – WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

Contributed by Stephen Worth, New Zealand National Codification Bureau

Earlier in the year there was uncertainty over a venue for the next PACS Forum. Although some nations indicated an interest, security and other concerns limited the options. After many discussions back and forth across the Pacific, New Zealand has agreed to host PACS Forum VI, in Wellington, from the 18th to the 20th of August.

The 2003 meeting will be occurring later in the year than has been the case in the past, and there are also a number of current worldwide circumstances that will impact upon



people's ability to travel. Nevertheless, the New Zealand National Codification Bureau (NZNCB) is working very hard to ensure that PACS Forum VI will be a positive and rewarding meeting. We are looking forward to a good turnout of delegates from the PASOLS nations.

The event will take place at the James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor, which was also used in



1997 for P A C S Working Group 5. This hotel is located in the middle

of Wellington's main shopping area, and is within walking distance of many of the city's major attractions. A special reduced room rate has been negotiated for Forum attendees. Those delegates who wish to find out more about New Zealand's capital before they arrive, can surf the web site www.wellingtonnz.com for a wealth of information about things to see and do.

In order to reduce the burden on the host nation, it has been decided to charge a registration fee of \$150 New Zealand dollars (approximately US\$75) for all participants. This is a common practice for most other PASOLS meetings, and will make it easier in the future for other countries to contemplate hosting a PACS Forum, as the financial commitment is lessened. For Forum VI, the registration fee covers the cost of all lunches and refreshments during the three days, as well as the official dinner.

The PACS Chairman has already sent out invitations via the normal channels. However, in case you have not received one, copies of the Registration and Booking forms are included in this issue of the PACS Newsletter. Because of the short time frames involved, delegates are urged to complete and return these forms as soon as possible, to allow the arrangements to be completed.

We look forward to welcoming you to Wellington...

From the Chairman



By now, all members should have received my email announcing that PACS Forum VI will be held in Wellington, New Zealand during the period 18-20 August 2003. Although it took a bit of detective work on my part, it seems that I was successful in resolving the correct email addresses for all members because I have not had any emails returned to me since then. Therefore, I can only assume that my invitation finally reached the intended recipient. Just in case however, a copy of the official invitation has been posted on the PASOLS website (www.pasols.org) and New Zealand has also provided further details in their article on PACS Forum VI in this issue of the Newsletter.

As Stephen Worth has correctly noted in his article, the PACS Forum VI meeting was not always as certain as it appears today. For a period of time, due to the lack of a venue, I was arriving at the point where I had to consider the possibility, however distasteful it might be, that PACS Forum VI would not take place at all. However, our New Zealand colleagues graciously stepped forward to rescue the day and planning is now well underway for yet another successful PACS Forum meeting. I had the pleasure of attending the 5th meeting of the PACS Working Group - also held in Wellington - and I am very much looking forward to a return visit this year.

Before leaving the topic of meeting venue, I would like to make two special requests. First of all, I would like to ask that all members seriously consider the possibility of hosting the 2004 meeting of the PACS Forum in their country. The doubt that surrounded this year's meeting is certainly something that we wish to avoid in the future and with almost 3 months remaining until PACS Forum VI, there should be sufficient time for members to pose the possibility to their national authorities and obtain at least an agreement in principle for the hosting the 2004 PACS Forum meeting. As Chairman, I would very much like to close PACS Forum VI by announcing the host country, and possibly date, for PACS Forum VII.

Secondly, I encourage all members to consider accepting the role of PACS Forum Chairman. In accordance with the PACS Charter, my term as Chairman will be completed with the closing of PACS Forum VI. For personal reasons, I will not be able to accept an extension as Chairman - even if nominated - so a new Chairman must be elected prior to the close of the meeting.

In the coming weeks, I will be starting to work on the agenda for PACS Forum VI. If there is a subject that you would like to add to the agenda and have discussed during the meeting, or if you intend to make a presentation to the Forum, please advise me or Mr. Lynn Schmoll at your earliest opportunity. All that I really require is the title for the agenda item and/or presentation and a brief explanation of the topic. Indonesia has already contributed one agenda item and I hope to receive several more as the meeting date approaches.

On that note, I think that I will conclude my remarks for this issue. The Editor has provided me with 2 full blank pages for my comments; however, I have to believe that this was more 'wishful thinking' on his part rather than a real expectation that I would require that much space. Once again, my sincere gratitude to New Zealand for agreeing to host PACS Forum VI and I look forward to seeing everyone in Wellington during the 3rd week of August.

P.S. Please don't forget to return your PACS Forum VI Registration Form as soon as possible - even if your travel details have not yet been finalized.

R.H. (Rick) Grove
Chairman, PACS Forum



Pacific Area Cataloguing System Forum VI



NEW ZEALAND
DEFENCE FORCE

Wellington, New Zealand

18 – 20 August 2003

James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor



REGISTRATION FORM FOR ATTENDEES

To assist us in the preparation of the PACS Forum VI, please complete this registration form and fax / e-mail to: Marianna Robati before 1st June 2003 at fax number (64) 4 527-5751 or e-mail: marianna.robati@nzdf.mil.nz

Attendee Information:

Note: This form is for attendees and their spouse/guests. Please type or print clearly

Title: _____

Name: _____
(Family Name) (First Name) (Middle Name)

Job Title: _____ Passport No: _____

Phone : _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Street: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Postal/Zip Code: _____

Country: _____

Name to appear on Name Tag: _____

If you have any special dietary needs or requirements (for example, dietary restrictions) that you would like us to take into consideration, please advise us:

Dietary Needs: _____

Special requirements: _____

Accompanying Persons:

Please indicate the number and details of any spouse / guest(s) accompanying you.

Number of people: _____

Spouses Name: _____

Guest Name: _____

Guest Name: _____

Transportation:

Transportation to and from the airport is available if required. Please provide us your flight numbers for both arrival and departure at Wellington International Airport.

Flight Arrival Date: _____ Flight Arrival Time: _____

Flight Number: _____

Flight Departure Date: _____ Flight Departure Time: _____

Flight Number: _____

Registration Fee:

Each attendee will be required to pay a registration fee of \$150.00 New Zealand dollars, which covers lunches, the official dinner and some administration costs. Payment in cash (NZD) would be appreciated at registration on Monday, 18 August.

Accommodation:

The PACS Forum VI will be held at the James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor, located in the centre of the city. Arrangements have been made for participant's accommodation in the same hotel at a special discounted rate.

Those wishing to spend additional time in Wellington either prior to or after the Forum meeting can take advantage of a cheaper weekend rate.

Negotiated tariffs are:

Single room: Monday to Thursday – \$185 NZD per night, including breakfast

Friday to Sunday – \$158 NZD per night, including breakfast

Note: the above room rates are inclusive of taxes. One NZD equals approximately 0.54 USD

Please complete the attached hotel reservation form and fax or e-mail it direct to the hotel as soon as possible, so that bookings can be confirmed.



James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor
147 The Terrace
(PO Box 2429)
Wellington
New Zealand
Phone: +61 (04) 499 9500
Facsimile: +61 (04) 499 9800
Web: www.jamescookhotel.co.nz

New Zealand Defence Force

GROUP REF – 18, 19, 20th August 03

PLEASE FAX TO: Reservations
+61 (04) 499 8203

OR E-MAIL TO: reservations@jamescookhotel.nz

OR SEND TO: 147 The Terrace
PO Box 2429
WELLINGTON
Ph: +61 (04) 499 9500

NAME/S: _____

REQUEST: DOUBLE/SINGLE (1 double bed)

TWIN (1 double bed, single bed) *PLEASE NOTE: ON AVAILABILITY

PREFERENCE: SMOKING

NON SMOKING * PLEASE NOTE: ON AVAILABILITY

ARR. DATE: _____ DEP. DATE: _____

ETA: _____

CREDIT CARD NUMBER FOR GUARANTEE (*MUST COMPLETE)

_____ EXPIRY DATE: _____

CARD HOLDER _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

NOTE: ALL BOOKINGS REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 28th JULY 2003 TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY OF ROOMS. CHANGES TO BOOKINGS OR CANCELLATIONS MUST BE MADE TO HOTEL DIRECTLY PRIOR TO DAY OF ARRIVAL TO ENSURE NON ARRIVAL & CANCELLATION FEES ARE NOT INCURRED.

THIS FAX SHEET WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU WITH YOUR CONFIRMATION NUMBER

CONFIRMATION NUMBER: _____