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PNG CSL SYSTEM

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History: The Common Supply Language System (CSL)

The Papua New Guinea (PNG) government established its cataloguing bureau in June 1975 within the Department of Public Services Commission and called it the Central Cataloguing Authority. In 1977 the name was changed to National Cataloguing Bureau.

An officer from the Australian Defence Cataloguing Authority (DCA) was assigned the task of establishing and implementing the COMMON SUPPLY LANGUAGE (CSL) System. This officer was ably assisted by four (4) national staff. A total of six (6) Australian officers served as Manager NCB and OIC Item Identification until the positions were localised in 1983. Training for NCB staff was conducted in Melbourne at the Australian NCB.

Because of the CSL's basic alignment with the Australian Defence Cataloguing System, it is therefore based on the NATO STANAGs. The NCB fully uses the NCS data with the exception of the 13 digit NSN being scaled down to 10 digits to suit PNG requirements. NSNs are recorded as references.

The National Cataloguing Bureau

A National Cataloguing Bureau (NCB) has been established within the Department of Defence to ini-

ate, develop, control and co-ordinate the implementation of the CSL system.

The NCB has the responsibility of establishing and maintaining a comprehensive, centralised system of recording data related to stores held in all departmental supply systems.



PNG NCB cataloguing staff at Murray Barracks, Port Moresby. From left: Leo Thomas, Grace Rua, Sussie Simon (author) and Iwi Ibowa.

The CSL System was fully computerised in 1987 for the NCB and PNGDF. For other users data cards are distributed by the NCB on a "as required" basis who then use the data for management purposes.

Until recently the NCB cataloguing system network was connected to the National Computer Centre's computer mainframe at Waigani. This set up is no longer viable so we are looking at developing a new system based on the NCS. The NCB

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