

NCS College in 2021

Since 2012, the University of Defence in Brno and the National Codification Bureau of the Czech Republic, with the support of the AURA company and other domestic and international institutions, have organised biennially the NCS College to give mostly international students the skills and knowledge to successfully operate the NATO Codification System (NCS) in their respective nations.



Among the NCS College lecturers there are current and former National Codification Bureau Directors, representatives from NSPA (NATO Support and Procurement Agency), AC/135 (NATO Allied Committee 135 - Group of National Directors on Codification), the University of Defence in Brno and last but not least specialist codification experts from AURA and other commercial foreign codification companies. The NCS is a methodology to describe

- Interoperability and sharing of equipment and spares between national and multi-national forces based on the common identifier of the NSN.
- Improved procurement by providing more choice of suppliers, more competition, lower costs and increased availability through access to the NATO Master Catalogue of References for Logistics (NMCRL) – the largest logistics database in the world.
- Reduced inventory and lower stock-holding costs by removing duplications and multiplications of stocks held under different supply numbers.
- Improved data quality and reduced costs by focusing on data cleansing and improved governance procedures.

It is hoped that future NCS College courses will again be held in person in Brno depending on international travel and safety considerations.

Normally organised as a three week course based at the University of Defence in Brno, the 2021 course was held for the first time on-line with 21 students from 11 different countries – Japan, Saudi Arabia, Romania, Indonesia, Germany, Czechia, Finland, Norway, Hungary, Qatar, and NATO. Since 2012 more than 130 students from 25 countries worldwide have attended the NCS College.

The syllabus of the NCS College covers the full range of topics embraced by the NATO Codification System. It includes NCS key policies & principles, purpose and benefits, regulations and documentation, and international liaison & data exchange processes/procedures.

and identify all materiel in a common manner by allocating an Approved Item Name and unique 13-digit NATO Stock Number (NSN) to each item held in the defence inventory.

Developed from the US Federal Cataloguing System after the Second World War and adopted by NATO countries in the late fifties, the NCS has been the backbone of materiel identification and interoperability requirements within NATO and has now been adopted by all 30 NATO nations and 34 non-NATO nations worldwide.

The benefits of the NCS include:

- The creation of a single supply 'language' for all national and international logistics operations.

George Bond, Senior Lecturer and Moderator, NCS College

George Bond served as Director of the UK National Codification Bureau and Chairman of AC/135.



NCS College

2012 – Organized by the University of Defence, Defense Logistics Agency of Logistics Information Service USA (DLA LIS), National Codification Bureau of the Czech Republic; supported by AURA, AC/135, NSPA; Course for Managers and Logisticians (1 week), Course for Codifiers (3 weeks); 32 students from 12 countries and organizations.

2014 – Organized by the University of Defence, AC/135, National Codification Bureau of the Czech Republic; supported by AURA, DLA LIS, NSPA, ESG, National Codification Bureau of Austria; Course for Managers and

Logisticians (1 week), Course for Codifiers (3 weeks); 30 students from 13 countries and organizations.

2016 – Organized by the University of Defence, AC/135, National Codification Bureau of the Czech Republic; supported by AURA, DLA LIS, NSPA, National Codification Bureau of Spain; Course for Managers and Logisticians (1 week), Course for Codifiers (3 weeks); 26 students from 15 countries and organizations.

2018 – Organized by the University of Defence, National Codification Bureau of the Czech Republic; supported by AURA, Allan

Webb, George Bond (former UK NCB Director and AC/135 Chairman); Course for Managers and Logisticians (1 week), Course for Codifiers (2 weeks); 23 students from 10 countries and organizations.

2021 – Organized by the University of Defence, National Codification Bureau of the Czech Republic; supported by AURA, Allan Webb, George Bond (former UK NCB Director and AC/135 Chairman); On-line Course for Managers and Codifiers (2 weeks); 21 students from 11 countries and organizations.

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