

## Speech of Director NSA for the 2008 DoD Standardization Conference to be held on 4-6 March 2008 in Arlington, Virginia, USA

### Lead in

Thank you Mr. Chairman for your kind invitation to say some words to this distinguished audience about Standardization in NATO.



Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is an honor for me to introduce you to how Standardization is done in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

### **Intention**

You should consider this short speech also as a lead in to our exhibition, which you can find in the foyer of the conference hall. My staff officer, Squadron Leader Geoff Dickson, is manning the stand and ready to answer any question concerning NATO Standardization which may arise from the exhibition.

### **History**

The NSA is the oldest Agency in NATO. It was established in 1951, in London, as "Military Standardization Agency". It has had several different names until 2001 when it was renamed the NATO Standardization Agency. Since its establishment, the NSA has developed into the leading agent for all fields of Standardization, such as operational, technical and administrative Standardization.

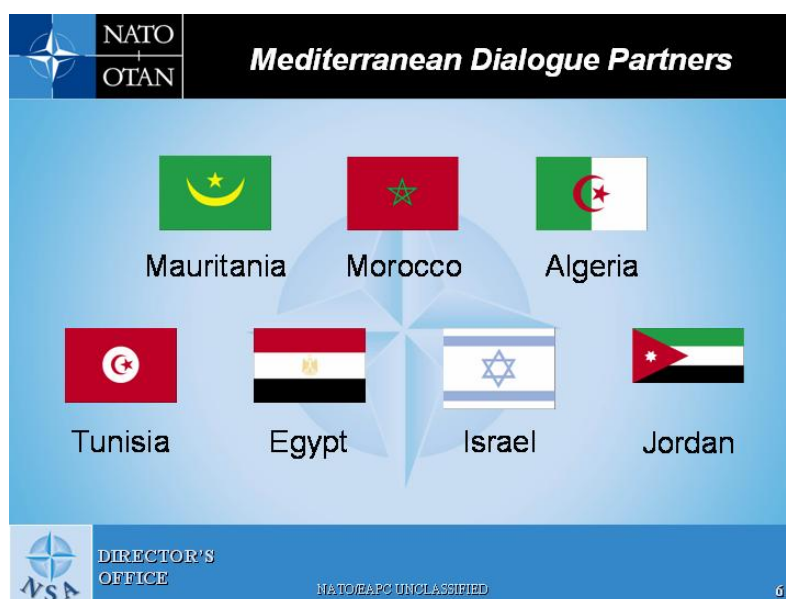
## Background

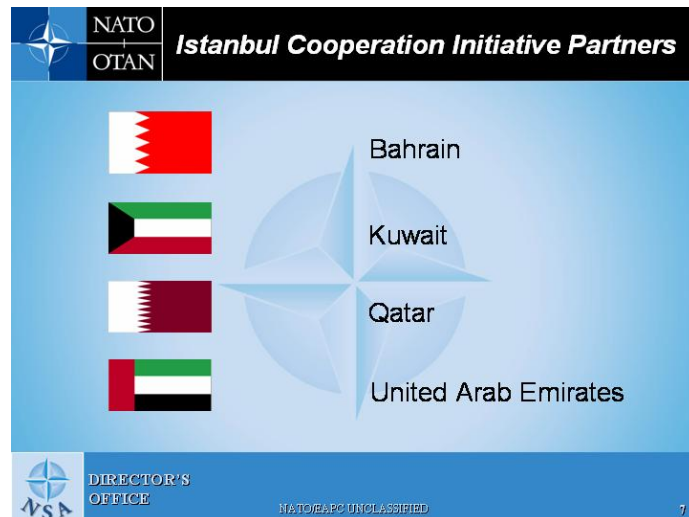
But....

### What is the reason for Standardization in NATO? Why does NATO have a Standardization Organization?

Ladies and Gentlemen, the keywords for a good understanding of the how and why of standardization in NATO, is:

- Forces of Partners and other nations and
- Multinational operations.





I just showed you the flags of 41 different partners and, together with the 26 flags of the NATO countries, a total of 67 countries are participating every day in almost all of our current operations, and we can not forget that many of these partner nations participate with significant troop contributions. In addition, many non NATO and non Partner nations support us in several campaigns. These forces have considerable differences:

- Different cultural background
- Different language,
- Different training level.
- Different operational understanding,
- And last, but not least, different equipment.

And these differences are also apply to NATO members. So it is very easy to understand that we need a tool to facilitate these countries achieving the level of interoperability required to succeed.

This tool is the Standardization.

But....

### What is our goal?

Let me start to answer this question with a simple statement: The primary goal of standardization is to attain **interoperability** between Forces which participate in NATO lead operations.



**What is this interoperability issue**, which was one of the main goals NATO Nations declared at the Istanbul summit in 2004?

I will give you the answer with our definition of interoperability and the operational interpretation: interoperability is "The ability to operate in synergy in the execution of assigned tasks" which means the output of the integrated forces is worth more than the sum of their separate parts.



Another definition could be our old and more operational orientated definition:

Interoperability is the ability of Alliance Forces and when appropriate, forces of Partner and other nations, to train, exercise and operate effectively together in the execution of assigned missions and tasks.



## The Tools

The main tool that NATO's high level organization has for promoting Standardization is the **NATO Standardization Organization** whose **Mission** is:

"To harmonize and coordinate Alliance Standardization efforts with the aim of enhancing interoperability and enable Alliance Forces to train, exercise and operate effectively together, and when appropriate, with Forces of Partners and other nations, in the execution of assigned missions and tasks".

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## Standardization in NATO

### Mission of the NATO Standardization Organisation

Is to harmonize and coordinate Alliance Standardization efforts with the aim of enhancing Interoperability and enable Alliance Forces to train, exercise and operate effectively together, and when appropriate, with Forces of Partners and other nations, in the execution of assigned missions and tasks.

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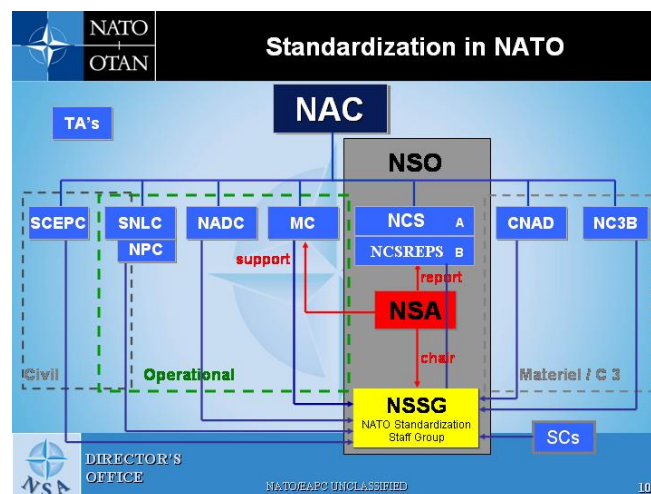
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This mission is clear and reflects very well how important standardization is in gaining interoperability, and how important its implementation is for nations participating in NATO operations.

The NSO is NATO's tool to foster Standardization.

The Organisation comprises 3 main elements:

- the NATO Committee for Standardization (NCS),
- the NATO Standardization Staff Group (NSSG) and
- the NATO Standardization Agency (NSA).



The NATO Committee for Standardization is the senior NATO authority on overall standardization matters. It comprises all 26 NATO nations and since 2000, an

additional 23 Partnership for Peace (PfP) nations. This means all together 49 nations, all actively support our business. This Committee usually meets twice a year and is NATO's highest authority in all Standardization matters. The NCS is supported by the NCS Representatives (NCSREPs) who are the working level of the Committee and meet four times a year. The focus of the work undertaken by the NCSREPs is on the harmonization of standardization between NATO and national bodies, and promoting interaction between them - in all fields of standardization. The NCS is chaired by the Assistant Secretary General of Defence Investment and the Director International Military Staff – a three star general.

The NATO Standardization Staff Group is subordinate to the NCS, and the staff element of it. Its principal task is to harmonize standardization policies and procedures and to coordinate all NATO standardization activities at the staff level. It is responsible, inter alia, for staff liaison and for the preparation of related documentation. The NATO Standardization Staff Group includes representatives from the Strategic Commands and staff representatives from the International Military Staff, the International Staff - which is the staff of the Secretary General, and from supporting Tasking Authorities (TA) namely the Military Committee, the NATO Air Defence Committee (NADC), the Conference of National Armaments Directors (CNAD), the Senior NATO Logisticians Conference (SNLC), the NATO Pipeline Committee (NPC), the NATO Consultation, Command and Control Board (NC3B) and the Senior Civil Emergency Planning Committee (SCEPC). The Tasking Authorities are the senior NATO Committees who have the authority to initiate the production of a Standardization Agreement (STANAG).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The last and “indeed, most important” NATO body involved in military Standardization is my own Agency – the NATO Standardization Agency. It is like the heart which pumps the blood through the veins of the NSO.

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**The NATO Standardization Agency**

**Mission**

**Initiates, coordinates, supports and administers**

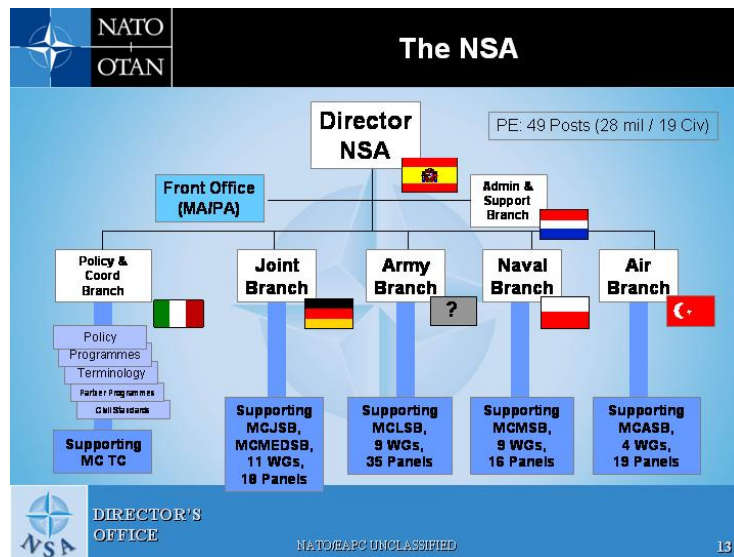
- Standardization and Interoperability policy for the Alliance under the authority of the NATO Committee for Standardization
- Operational Standardization and Terminology under the authority of the Military Committee
- Acts as the focal point of liaison with civil Standardization Organizations

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The NSA is a service providing agency, initially established over 50 years ago in London. It is a single NATO body, integrated into the headquarters of the Alliance and subordinated to the NAC through the NATO Committee for Standardization (NCS) who act as our Board of Directors.

Up to now, the NSA has provided the key element required by the Alliance to facilitate the basic foundations necessary for Joint operations: Standardization! Although most people think Standardization is mainly a material/technical issue but it is not exactly because almost 65 % of NATO Standards are operational Standards. These Standards deal with doctrines, tactics, techniques, procedures and terminology. They are the basic pre-requisites that enable Alliance forces, our Partners and other countries to participate in NATO led operations.



The Agency has 47 personnel from 18 different countries - 19 civil and 28 military posts. Additionally, Partner Nations complement the staff by providing officers, two at present from Austria and Croatia. As you can see from the slide, I am supported by six subordinate branches.

Four of these branches support the MC Standardization Boards (MCSB) by providing the Chairman and secretary. The boards are directly responsible for producing and maintaining Standardization Agreements (STANAGs) and Allied Publications (APs). The Policy & Coordination (P&C) Branch supports NATO's highest authority for Standardization - the NATO Committee for Standardization, and coordinates the Alliance's Standardization efforts in support of Interoperability. It is also responsible for developing and maintaining the Standardization and Interoperability Policy of the Alliance.





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## Standardization in NATO

### Outlook

- Contribution to the Comprehensive Political Guidance (CPG)
- Support of NATO Transformation
- NATO Interoperability Process
- NATO-Civil Standards Organisations relationship
- Defence Against Terrorism (DAT)



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## Outlook

Looking ahead I would like to show you which are the areas of responsibility where the NSO have made, and could have, major achievements:

### Contribution to the Comprehensive Political Guidance (CPG)

The NSO, as supporting element of the various NATO Planning Disciplines, ensures that the standardization objectives of the Alliance are defined and prioritised to support the CPG missions and goals as effectively as possible.

### Support of NATO Transformation

The NSO is the primary senior NATO body which ensures that the Transformation process is sound and has potential for achieving substantial improvement. An efficient NATO standardization process<sup>1</sup> is one important tool to achieve this.

### NATO Interoperability Process

The NATO Interoperability Process provides guidance and procedures to all NATO Bodies. It is the tool for achieving Interoperability in a coordinated and effective manner. By following the identification and resolution of the NATO Interoperability Requirements - harmonized with the CPG and the CPG

<sup>1</sup> The sequence of activities to propose develop, approve, promulgate, implement and update NATO standards. (AAP-42)

Management Mechanism, the NSO ensures that the Interoperability Process provides as much advantage as possible.

#### NATO-Civil Standards Organisations relationship

The NATO Intellectual Property Rights and Copyright Policy for NATO Standards were approved by NATO Nations in the summer of 2007. This was a milestone in adapting NATO's policy to the current civilian environment. The NSO is the NATO body which liaises with various civil standards working groups, as the European Committee for Standardization (CEN).

#### Defence Against Terrorism (DAT)

Immediately after 11 September 2001 the NSO tasked the subordinated standardization elements (NSA and NSSG) to initiate the review of all STANAGs/APs in order to update or to adjust them to take into account the threat of terrorism. Guidance on how to achieve this was developed and used through out all TAs. To date, all NATO STANAGs and APs have been reviewed and updated to address DAT as part of a continuous, ongoing process.

#### **Summary**

The NSO works with determination to build a solid foundation to unite all the military forces within the Alliance through Standardization. This is done quietly, but steadily. In addition, within the constantly changing political and military environment, the NSO has continued its efforts to keep the Standards of the Alliance updated, and initiates and coordinates the development of new Standards as and when required. The NSO will keep the momentum of achieving one of the Alliance's primary aims: Reaching the level of interoperability needed for NATO's and Partner forces involved in multinational NATO lead operations.



Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your attention. My team and I are ready to answer your question here, or at our exhibition. Thank you.