

NCS College 23 Trained on AURA Codification Software

Already the 6th edition of the international codification courses, organised by the University of Defence (UNOB) and the National Codification Bureau (NCB) of the Czech Republic, with the all-round support of the Brno-based company AURA, took place in August and September 2023 in Brno. This time under the name "NCS College together 23", expressing the joint effort of students, lecturers, moderators, program and IT managers and others who participated in the preparation of logisticians and codifiers involved in national and international codification processes within the NATO Codification System.

From Europe, Asia and America

For three weeks, the University of Defence in Brno became the "home" for students and lecturers from eleven countries in Europe, Asia and America. After successful completion of the Course for Managers and Logisticians and the Course for Codifiers, the graduates of NCS College together 23 received their certified diplomas from the Rector of UNOB – Brigadier General Prof. Zuzana Kročová. For the first time, representatives of the Czech Ministry of Defence, Property Section and Logistics Section, participated in the course and significantly contributed to the quality of topics from the position of students.



Training on MC CATALOGUE

Participants, especially of the Course for Codifiers, greatly appreciated the opportunity to train on real codification software. Traditionally, this software was MC CATALOGUE, an information system for the support of codification developed by AURA, which is currently the most widely used codification software worldwide, utilised in more than 20 countries across five continents. The NCS College in Brno has one indisputable and irreplaceable advantage. After completing the course, students can codify items of supply like weapons and combat equipment on real codification software. They also know how to create the NATO Stock Number (NSN), which is an irreplaceable identifier for items of codified materiel. One of the main goals of training at NCS College in Brno is that the students acquire knowledge and practical skills in codification processes within the context of a real codification in-

formation system. Since 2012, nearly 200 logisticians and codifiers have completed international codification courses at the Czech University of Defence.

NCS College is managed and trained by renowned experts

A broad range of students included directors of foreign NCBs, senior officers, including a brigadier general, and representatives of commercial companies. There was an elite representation of lecturers and moderators such as the former Chairman of the Group of National Directors on Codification AC/135, George Bond, the U.S. representative for codification issues at NSPA and AC/135, Steven Arnett (2012–2015), and other former and current NCB directors and teachers from the University of Defence. In addition to AURA, the commercial sector was traditionally represented by the British company Allan Webb.

The training also included guided tours to the Centre for the Provision of Material for Rear Services in Brno and Centre for the Provision of Material for Technical Services in Štěpánov. More than in the past, NCS Co-

lege made use of Publi – a platform for controlled distribution of sensitive documents by the company Code Creator, a close partner of AURA.

Not just school and training

Participants of the course enjoyed a rich accompanying program, including the opening evening meeting, guided tours of Brno or sports competitions. The visit to the capital city of Prague with an original cruise and refreshments on the Vltava River met with an enthusiastic response. The Codification Quiz, organised by AURA lecturers, received particularly positive feedback and, as we know, found application in foreign NCBs as well.

A great satisfaction for the high-quality and systematic effort of all participants of the "NCS College together 23", including a number of AURA staff, was the final evaluation from students, which in total almost reached the highest possible rating on a scale of 1-5, specifically 1.15. "Perfect organisation, excellent training and exercises on real software, diverse program and demand for more similar codification courses in Brno" – this was the verbal and written feedback from students during and after NCS College 2023. Many of them, as they said, will recommend the Brno codification courses not only to their colleagues in national codification bureaus, but also to civilian companies involved in codification and their foreign partners.

By Antonín Svěrák