

NATO M&S Resources/Standards Support Team – II

(STO-TR-MSG-157)

Executive Summary

In accordance with the NATO Standardization Policy, “The Alliance will use suitable civil standards to the maximum practicable extent” – [Ref C-M(2004)0009 – NATO Framework for Civil Standards].

As a result, all NATO Standardization Delegated Tasking Authorities, including the NATO Modelling and Simulation (M&S) Group (NMSG) were requested to identify civil Standards Development Organizations (SDOs, preferably not-for-profit) in their domains and to start cooperation on standards of interest for NATO. The Simulation Interoperability Standards Organization (SISO) is the principle civil SDO of interest for M&S standards in NATO, with which NMSG has established a Technical Cooperation Agreement (TCA), initially signed in 2007 and reaffirmed in 2019 [Ref AC/323/NMSG(2019)117]. Since then multiple standardization efforts were undertaken by NMSG in cooperation with SISO. In addition, several NMSG Task Groups developed M&S resources (e.g. Missionland dataset, NATO M&S Glossary of Terms, etc) that need maintenance. Other TCAs and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) are being considered such as with the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) and more may follow.

The MSG-157 Task Group (TG) was established with the aim to provide specialist support to those M&S standards and resources of interest to NATO that are not covered by any other STO activity. This includes participation of NATO experts to NATO and non-NATO fora dealing with such standards and resources as well as the maintenance of similar assets owned by NATO.

During its three years tenure, the MSG-157 provided essential support to the development and maintenance of NATO M&S related products such as AMSP-01 “NATO M&S Standards Profile”, AMSP-03 “Guidance for M&S Standards in Computer Assisted Exercises” and AMSP-04 “NATO Education and Training Network Federation Architecture and Federation Object Model Design”.

Also, in conjunction with SISO, the task group contributed to the development and maintenance of multiple civil standards of interest to NATO such as: SISO-STD-016-00-2016 Standard for UCATT Laser Engagement Interface, SISO-STD-019-2020 Standard for Command and Control Systems - Simulation Systems Interoperation and SISO-STD-020-2020 Standard for Land Operations Extension (LOX) to Command and Control Systems - Simulation Systems Interoperation.

Last but not least, MSG-157 looked at the management, promotion and exploitation of the Missionland dataset and of the NATO M&S Terminology developed by MSG-071 and MSG-120 TGs, respectively.

Recommendations:

- A follow-on TG to continue the essential work of supporting M&S related standards and resources;
- NATO and Partner Nations/Organizations to designate representatives as members in the above proposed TG.
- Continue to explore further TCAs and MoUs with civil SDOs as appropriate.