NATO Terminology Programme
Introduction

Standardization within NATO course

18 September 2025

Developed by

NATO Terminology Office (NTO)

NATO Standardization Office (NSO)

Presented by

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Standardization Branch

Military Centre for Standardization, Quality and Codification

POL

01

Background

Why standardize terminology?

In an organization like NATO, different understandings of terms may lead to inefficiency, misunderstanding, disagreement, or worse...
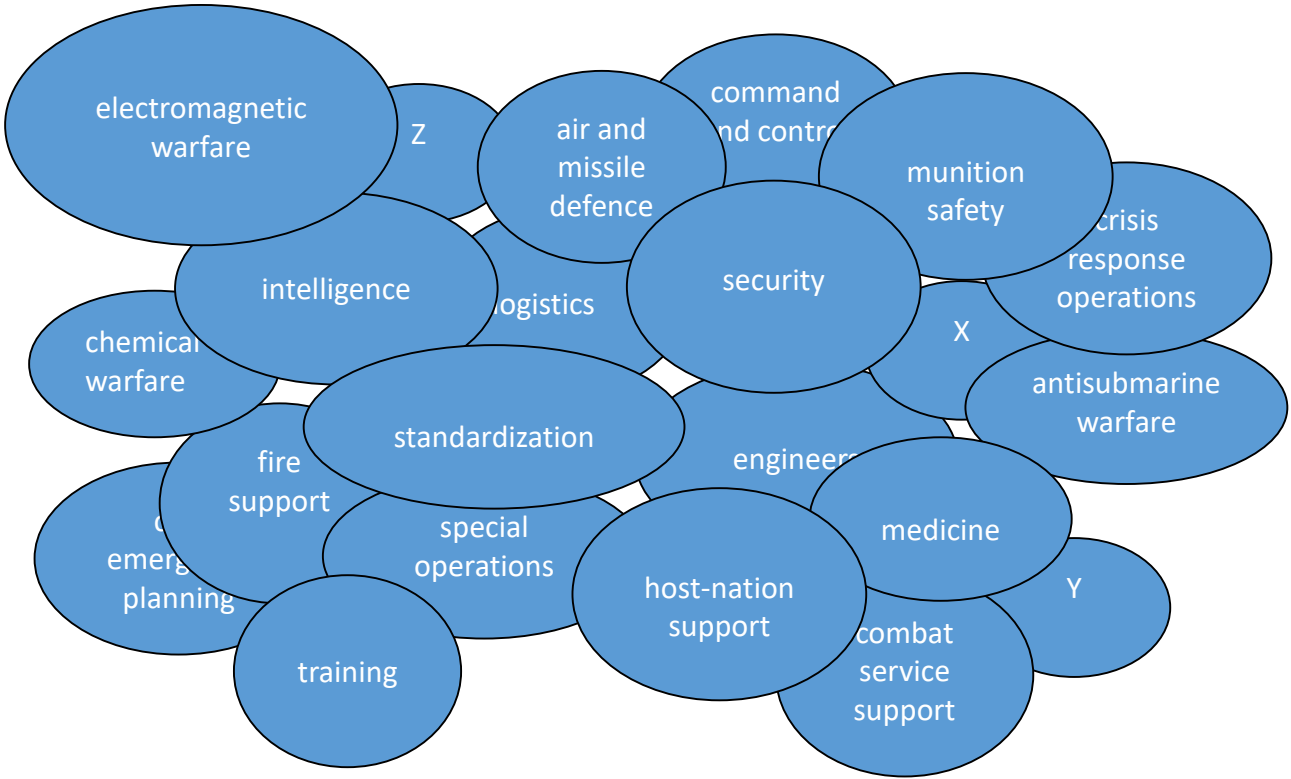
Interoperability through standardization

NATO has chosen to enhance interoperability, among others, through standardization.

➢ Materiel
➢ Procedures
➢ Terminology

Soon after NATO was established in 1949 expert groups start to develop their own terminology without any coordination…

Since the year 2000, terminology is a standardization policy objective:

"The Alliance shall promote understanding through the selection or development and use of commonly-agreed, well-defined, clear, precise, consistent, gender-neutral and bilingual (English/French) terminology. NATO Agreed terminology shall be used in NATO standardization documents."

(PO(2016)0315 Revised NATO Policy for Standardization)

Policy objective

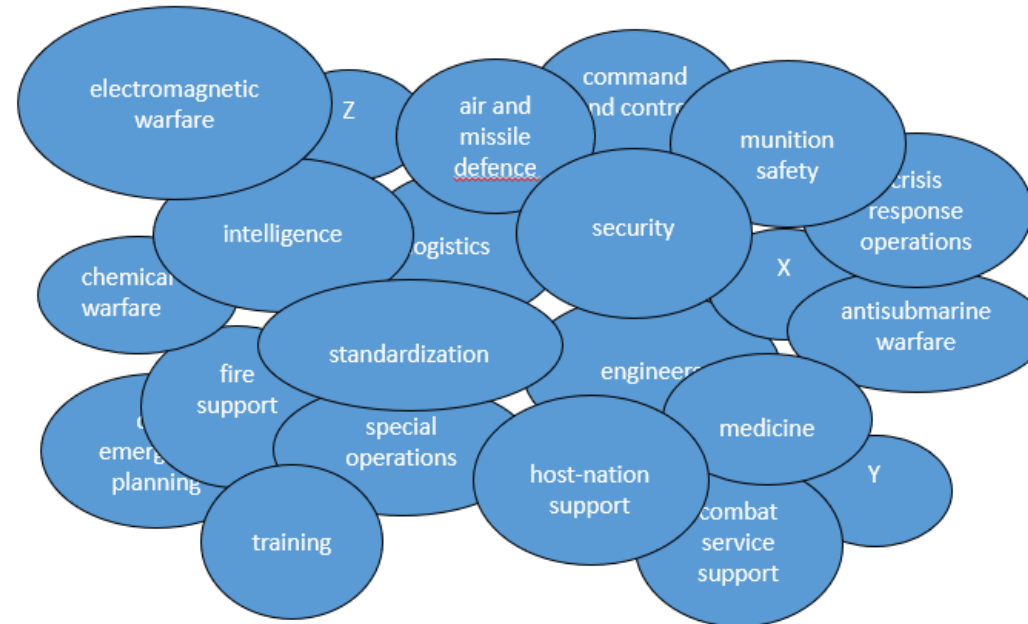Since the year 2000, terminology is a standardization policy objective:

"The Alliance shall promote understanding through the selection or development and use of commonly-agreed, well-defined, clear, precise, consistent, gender-neutral and bilingual (English/French) terminology. NATO Agreed terminology shall be used in NATO standardization documents."

(PO(2016)0315 Revised NATO Policy for Standardization)

NATO Terminology Programme

- **NATO Terminology Directive** [PO(2015)0193] - responsibilities and procedures.

- **NATO Terminology Manual** [AAP-77] - how to write terms, definitions, etc., based on the ISO standards for terminology.

+ NATO Terminology Directive

+ NATO Terminology Manual

Coordinated through the NATO Terminology Office (NTO)

= NATO Terminology Programme

NATOTerm enables the terminology from one document to be shared...

... and reused in other NATO documents

02

Process

A four-phase process…

01
Submission

Authors of documents check their terminology against NATOTerm and submit proposals as required, in accordance with AAP-77.

02
Development

Proposals are reviewed by subject-matter experts and NTO till consensus on both form and substance is reached.

03
Approval

Mature terminology is then submitted by NTO to the appropriate approving authority for approval. Decision is consensus-based.

04
Promulgation

Upon approval, NTO promulgates agreed terminology in NATOTerm so that it can be shared and reused in NATO documents.
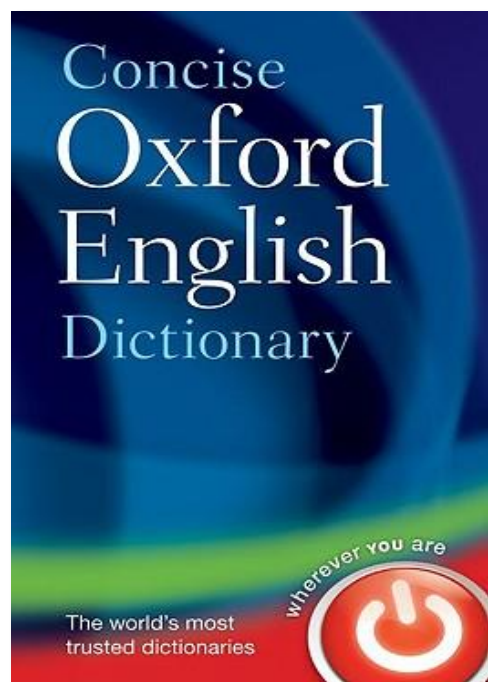
You can choose to accept the terminology from the **reference dictionaries.**

If you do, there is no need to submit proposals for the terminology in your document.

Reference dictionaries

The definitions in these dictionaries apply by default.

If the terminology from the COED and Le Petit Robert is acceptable and <u>consistent</u>, there is no need to submit a terminology proposal!

Terminology Proposal Form - *template*

NATO
OTAN

NATO Standardization Office
Brussels | Belgium
NSO

Terminology Proposal Form

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Date	year–month–day		
Proposer			
Type of proposal	☐ ADDITION	To add a new entry to NATOTerm.	
	☐ MODIFICATION	To change a NATO Agreed entry in NATOTerm.	
	☐ CANCELLATION	To cancel a NATO Agreed entry in NATOTerm.	
	☐ REVALIDATION	To reconfirm the validity of a NATO Agreed entry in NATOTerm.	
TA / DTA			
Justification			
Comments			

EXISTING ENTRY IN NATOTerm

English	French
Preferred term and abbreviation [Source(s)] **Admitted term(s) and abbreviation(s)** [Source(s)] **Deprecated term(s) and abbreviation(s)** [Source(s)] **Obsolete term(s) and abbreviation(s)** [Source(s)] Definition [Source] Note(s) [Source] Example(s) [Source(s)] Related term(s) [Source(s)] Approval status Approval date	**Preferred term and abbreviation** [Source(s)] **Admitted term(s) and abbreviation(s)** [Source(s)] **Deprecated term(s) and abbreviation(s)** [Source(s)] **Obsolete term(s) and abbreviation(s)** [Source(s)] Definition [Source] Note(s) [Source] Example(s) [Source(s)] Related term(s) [Source(s)] Approval status Approval date

PROPOSAL

	English	French
Preferred term		
+ Source		
Preferred abbreviation		
+ Source		
Admitted term(s)		
+ Source(s)		
Admitted abbreviation(s)		
+ Source(s)		
Deprecated term(s)		
+ Source(s)		
Deprecated abbreviation(s)		
+ Source(s)		
Obsolete term(s)		
+ Source(s)		
Obsolete abbreviation(s)		
+ Source(s)		
Definition		
+ Source		
Note(s)		
+ Source		
Example(s)		
+ Source(s)		
Related term(s)		
+ Source(s)		

Proposal to be submitted to terminology@nso.nato.int
(or NATO Terminology Office on Athena).

To access the proposal form, go to the NSO *PROTECTED* website: Terminology > NATO Terminology Programme.

NATO
OTAN

NATO Standardization Office
Brussels | Belgium
NSO

NATO STANDARDIZATION OFFICE
Protected Website

NSO | TAs - DTAs | STANDARDS | TERMINOLOGY | EDUCATION AND TRAINING | LINKS

> NATO Terminology Programme
> Search for terminology - NATOTerm
> Search for TTFs - TTF Tracker

📁 > Terminology

▸ 📁 01 NATO Terminology Directive and Manual
▸ 📁 02 NATO Terminology Brochure
▸ 📁 03 Terminology Proposal Form
▸ 📁 04 Archived TTFs
▸ 📁 05 Ongoing TTFs
▸ 📁 06 Other Documents

Structure of a terminological entry

preferred term(s)

+ abbreviation(s)

Synonyms {
admitted term(s)

+ abbreviation(s)

deprecated term(s)

+ abbreviation(s)

obsolete term(s)

+ abbreviation(s)
}

Definition: to consist of one sentence.

Note(s): if required.

Example(s): if required.

[Source]

superiority in the electromagnetic spectrum
SEMS
electromagnetic spectrum superiority (admitted)
EMS superiority (admitted)
The degree of dominance in the electromagnetic environment that permits forces to successfully conduct electromagnetic operations at the time, place and parameters of their choosing, while denying the same to the adversary.

NATO Agreed, 2021-10-18

03

NATOTerm

Facts and figures

☐ The official NATO Terminology Database.
☐ Non-classified military terminology as well as non-military terminology relevant to NATO.
☐ Available in both official languages: **English** and **French**.
☐ Four types of terminological records:

NATO AGREED	CANCELLED	NATO ADOPTED	NOT NATO AGREED
Terminology developed and approved through the NTP.	Terminology that was previously NATO Agreed and is no longer current.	Terminology from authoritative civilian sources, used by NATO but not necessarily in accordance with the NTP.	Legacy terminology from former NATO glossaries, not developed and approved through the NTP yet.
41 %	6 %	44 %	9 %
8530 entries	1158 entries	9266 entries	1836 entries

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

How to access NATOTerm

https://nso.nato.int

To access NATOTerm's **Home** page.

To access NATOTerm's **Search** page.
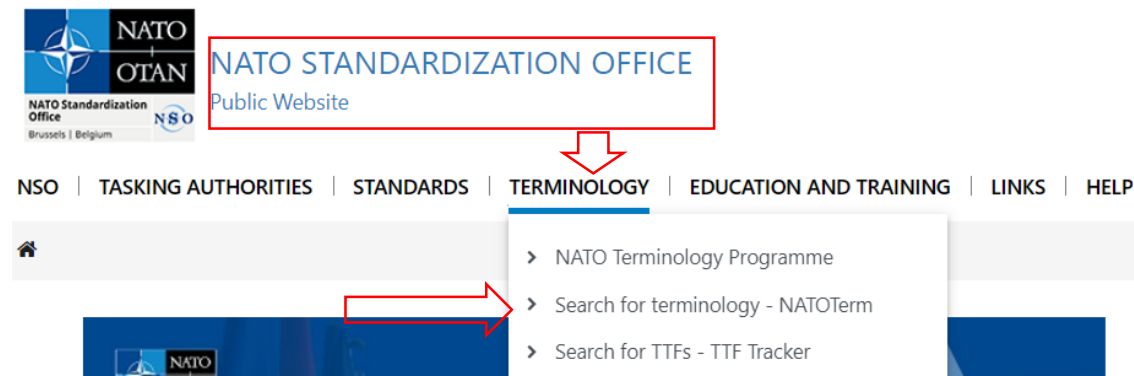
- Via the NATO website: www.nato.int
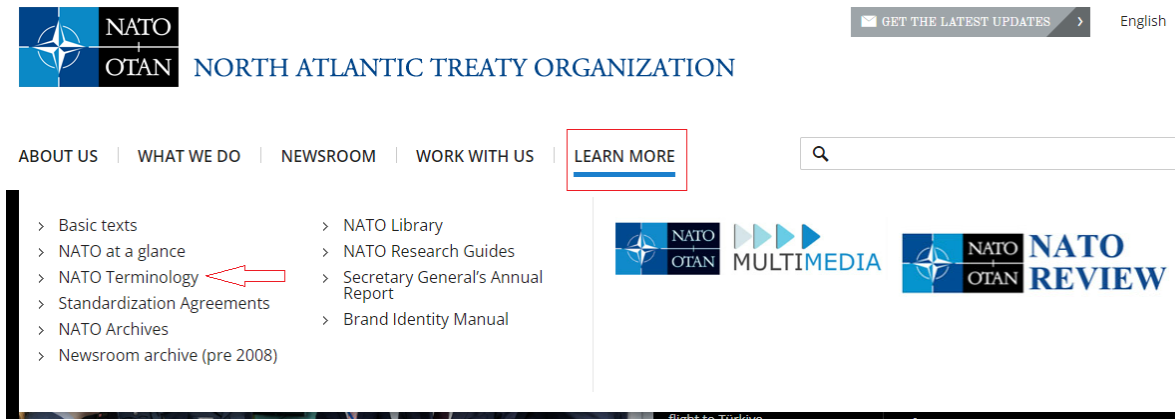
- Direct URL: nso.nato.int/natoterm.
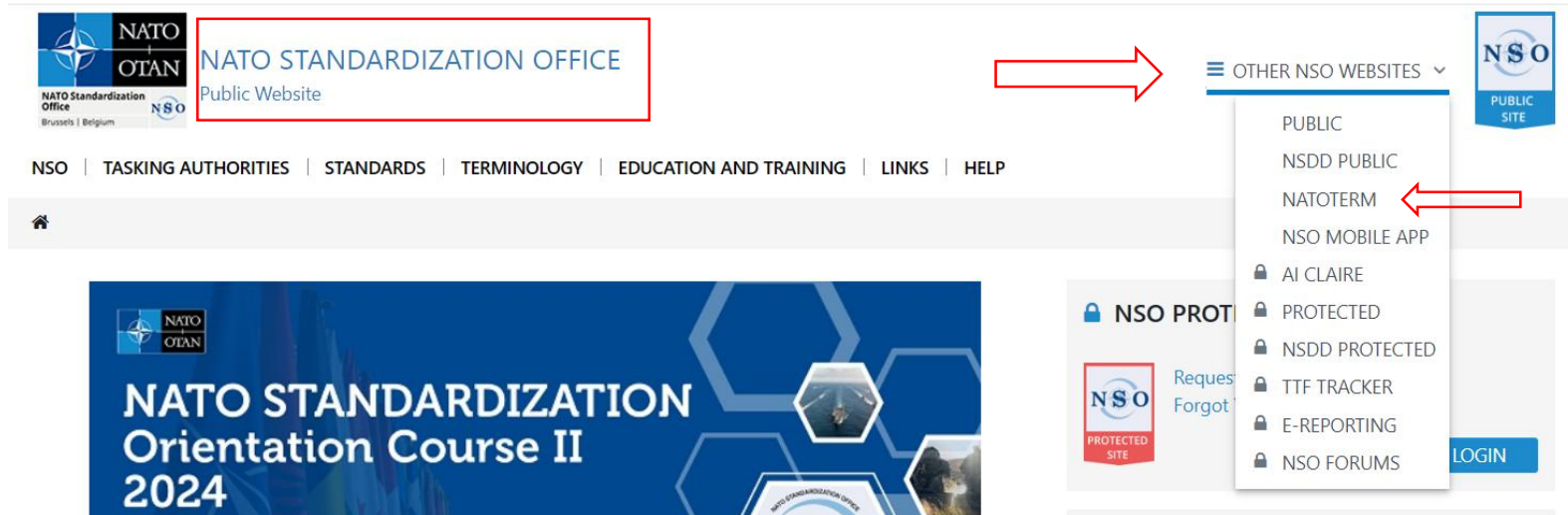
- Google it!

Home page

Welcome

Welcome to NATOTerm, the official NATO Terminology Database.

NATOTerm contains non-classified military terminology, as well as non-military terminology relevant to NATO. NATOTerm is available in both NATO official languages, i.e. English and French, and is maintained by the NATO Terminology Office, which is part of the NATO Standardization Office.

NATOTerm is updated on a regular basis to promulgate newly approved terminology. In addition to this, NATOTerm is being populated with the legacy terminology from specialist NATO glossaries.

Overviews of the most recent updates are listed below in chronological order.

Please inform the NATO Terminology Office if you have come across any mistakes, discrepancies or missing data.

Access to the search user interface.

Overview of the latest promulgations, per type of proposal.

Latest updates

17 February 2025:
- Terminological entries approved by the LCEG(S) and the LCMG.

19 December 2024:
- Terminological entries approved by the CASG et LCMG.

15 November 2024:
- Terminological entries approved by the MCLSB.

30 October 2024:
- Terminological entries approved by the MCJSB.

14 October 2024:
- Terminological entries approved by the MCTB and the NMSG.

Quick start guide

To search for terminology:

1. Click on **Search** in the above menu bar.
2. Choose the **Source language** and the **Target language**.
3. Enter the searched term or abbreviation in the search field.
4. Click on the **Search** button or press Enter.

For more help, click on the help icon ❓ on the **Search** page.

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

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Search page

Search field

NATOTerm's content can be filtered out (AAP-06, intelligence, etc.) and exported into a bilingual glossary-type PDF.

Home

Links EN FR

Select TermBase: NATOTerm

Advanced users Login

joint

Advanced search   Search

Filters   Exports

List of results with colour-coded bullets

➔

◆ **NATO AGREED**
◆ **CANCELLED**
◆ **NATO ADOPTED**
◆ **NOT NATO AGREED**

- joint
- joint
- joint action
- joint action area
- joint air attack team
- joint air power
- Joint Air Power Competence Centre
- joint air reconnaissance centre
- joint air-assault team
- joint air-attack team
- joint air-to-surface stand-off missile
- joint amphibious operation
- joint amphibious task force
- Joint Analysis and Lessons Learned Centre
- joint anti-airwarfare support and coordination
- joint assessment team
- Joint Aviation Requirements
- joint battlespace digitisation
- joint blood transhipment centre
- joint capability group
- Joint Chiefs of Staff
- joint civil commission
- Joint Civil/Military Medical Group
- joint commander

Record 7527

Security Level: Public
Domain: General terminology

NATO glossaries: AAP-06; AAP-39
TTF: 1997-0031

English

Approving authorities: MC < MCJSB
Approval status: NATO Agreed
Approval date: 1999-07-16

joint

    Acceptability: Preferred

      ▼ More Info

multiservice

    Acceptability: Admitted

      ▼ More Info

Definition: Adjective used to describe activities, operations and organizations in which elements of at least two services participate.

French

Approving authorities: MC < MCJSB
Approval status: NATO Agreed
Approval date: 2003-09-01

interarmées

Record of the terminology selected in the list of results.

04

Innovation

NAC and MC taskings in the areas of *Innovation* and *Digital Transformation* call for improvements to the services and tools provided by the NSO to the standardization community.

**OBSOLETE
SOFTWARE
BEHIND
NATOTERM**

NATOTerm 2.0

- Multi-phase, multi-year project.

- Objectives:
  - ➢ Accelerate the development of terms and definitions in NATO (phase I);
  - ➢ Support the development, maintenance and storage of semantic resources (phase II).

| Intuitive, user-friendly design | ➕ | Enhanced search features | ➕ | Improved data exchange | ➕ | Online collaboration features |

05

Key takeaways

✓ NATO standardizes its terminology (policy objective).

✓ Consensus-based decision process.

✓ Key documents of the NATO Terminology Programme are:
- NATO Terminology Directive, **PO(2015)0193**
- NATO Terminology Manual, **AAP-77**

✓ NATO terminology is centrally managed at NATO Headquarters by the NATO Terminology Office (NTO), which is part of NATO Standardization Office (NSO).

✓ NATOTerm is the « one-stop shop » for all NATO terminology.

- For more information on the NATO Terminology Programme, please download the **NATO Terminology brochure** via the NSO public web site.

- To contact the NATO Terminology Office: terminology@nso.nato.int.

NATO *Term.* Common sense.
*Term*OTAN. Le bon sens.
https://nso.nato.int/natoterm

Questions?

terminology@nso.nato.int