NATO Ammunition Recognition Program

Assurance at the speed of operations

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Proportional Safety: From Competition to Conflict

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Agenda

From cradle to grave

NATO Ammunition Recognition Program (NARP)

A structured journey from the operational challenge to trusted recognition

01

Problem definition

The assurance gap

02

NARP overview

Purpose and scope

03

NARP process

Assessment to recognition

04

NARP documentation

Policies and supporting tools

05

Outcome

Confidence, readiness and trust

The agenda follows the full recognition lifecycle

The challenge: common standards, uneven assurance

Shared standards do not automatically produce shared confidence.

Different implementation

Allies may adopt common NATO standards yet implement them through different laws, authorities, policies and assurance practices.

Different evidence

The depth, currency and accessibility of evidence may vary across national life-cycle management systems.

Operational uncertainty

Unknown differences can transfer operational risk. Without an Alliance-wide mechanism, commanders may inherit unknown or poorly understood safety risk and need a defensible basis for trust.



The less time available, the more valuable pre-established confidence becomes.

Core idea **Different processes can still provide equivalent confidence when authorities, governance, people and controls are demonstrably effective.**

The operational gap NARP closes

Common standards do not automatically create common confidence.

Different national implementation

Different regulatory structures

No Alliance-wide assurance mechanism

NARP provides structured recognition of a nation's munitions safety governance and management system

CERTIFICATION | **STORAGE** | **TRANSPORTATION** | **HANDLING/USE**

It evaluates the system that assures safety throughout the life cycle. It does not certify individual ammunition items.

Intended End State: commanders gain a known basis for risk-informed decisions in multinational operations.

NARP from a technical perspective

Confidence is built when ammunition life-cycle activities are controlled, competent and repeatable.

NARP

instils confidence in a nation's management and governance of the ammunition life cycle.

TECHNICAL ASSURANCE

01 Accepted standards

Activities are completed against recognized technical and safety standards.

02 Qualified people

Activities are performed by authorized and appropriately qualified individuals.

03 Approved organizations

Responsibilities are exercised within organizations that have defined and approved authorities.

04 Approved procedures

Activities are planned, executed and recorded using controlled, approved procedures.

The objective is not identical national processes. It is credible, comparable and sustained safety outcomes.

Recognition establishes equivalence of safety outcomes despite differences in national processes.

NARP from an operational perspective

Assurance for multinational operations, from safe handling to compatible exchange.

NARP provides SACEUR with confidence that Allies' and Partners' munitions can support operations without introducing unknown or increased safety risks.

INTEROPERABILITY

Confidence that munitions are safe to:

1. **HANDLE** Qualified people and controlled procedures
2. **STORE** Known hazards and approved facilities
3. **TRANSPORT** Safe packaging, movement and transfer
4. **USE** Operational employment without unknown safety risk

INTERCHANGEABILITY

Compatible munitions may be exchanged without increased safety risk when they have been:

TESTED → **IDENTIFIED AS COMPATIBLE**

NARP enables interchangeability. It does not replace compatibility testing or item-specific technical determinations.

Operational result: greater confidence, reduced surprise hazards, and more informed multinational decisions.

How recognition works

National evidence is converted into Alliance assurance through structured peer assessment.



NARP Process

A three-stage, evidence-based path to NATO recognition

01

SUBMIT

Complete the NARQ

(NATO Ammunition Recognition Question Set)

The nation documents its ammunition safety governance and supporting evidence.

02

ASSESS

NATO team review

The NATO Assessment Team reviews the submission and conducts an interview where needed.

03

RECOGNIZE

Report and certificate

The assessment concludes with a NATO Assessment Report and, if successful, a Recognition Certificate.

ASSESSMENT REPORT



RECOGNITION CERTIFICATE



11 **The NATO Assessment Team evaluates the nation across eleven focus areas.**

The assessment lens

Eleven focus areas test whether safety is governed, evidenced and sustained.

1. Authority & organization
2. Policy
3. Risk management
4. Training & competence
5. Hazard classification
6. Through-life management
7. In-service surveillance
8. Storage
9. Assurance / oversight
10. Licensing
11. Occurrence reporting

The assessment considers whether safety activities are completed to accepted standards, by authorized and qualified personnel, within approved organizations, using approved procedures.

The question is not whether systems are identical. The question is whether they deliver credible, NATO-aligned safety outcomes.

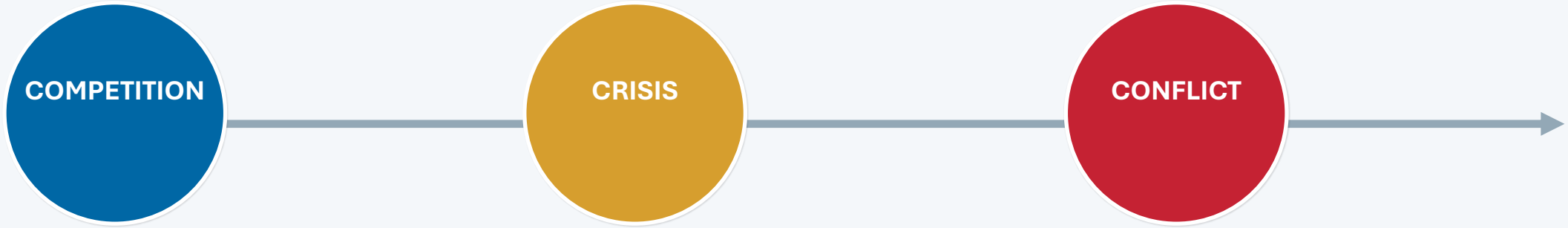
Proportional safety in practice

NARP supports faster decisions without lowering the standard of care.

Assurance effort shifts forward

so operational tempo does not force safety decisions to start from zero.

Proportionality means applying the right assurance at the right time, based on evidence and operational context.



Build evidence
Assess systems
Develop trust

Use recognized evidence
Resolve residual questions

Act with known basis
Manage operational risk

Bottom line: NARP strengthens confidence before the operational moment of need.

Strategic value to NATO and Nations

Recognition turns technical assurance into readiness and freedom of action.

Operational assurance

Known basis for handling, storage, movement, and use decisions. Greater confidence and supports informed decisions.

Interoperability

Reduced transfer of unforeseen safety risk between nations. Builds confidence to operate together in multinational environments.

Interchangeability enabler

Confidence that compatible munitions remain safe through life. Creates a trusted safety foundation.

Readiness

Preserves capability through informed planning and greater operational flexibility

Economy of effort

Leverages credible national assurance work and can reduce avoidable duplication

Continuous improvement

Peer review identifies strengths, gaps, and better practices.

Encourages the ratification/implementation/harmonization of NATO standards.

A recognition model for Allies and Partners

NARP can strengthen cooperation while respecting sovereign authority.

SOVEREIGNTY

National authorities remain responsible for certifying and managing their munitions.

TRANSPARENCY

Structured evidence makes national systems understandable and assessable across borders.

CONFIDENCE

Peer recognition creates a shared basis for cooperation, support and operational decisions.

Different systems. Comparable assurance. Stronger operations.

Outcome: nation-to-nation confidence

NARP establishes a trusted starting point for subsequent discussions on specific munitions.

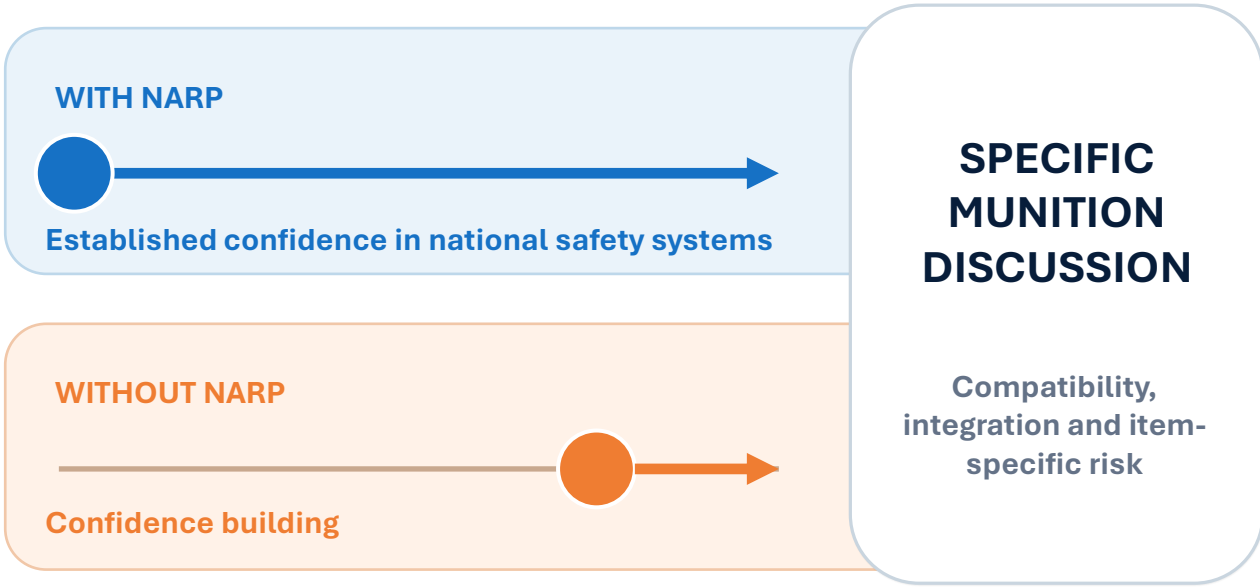
NARP BUILDS THE BASELINE

By increasing understanding of each nation's ammunition safety governance and management system, NARP creates an initial level of confidence between nations.

It does not resolve every item-specific question. It creates the conditions to address those questions.

Confidence develops earlier

NARP shifts the start of meaningful nation-to-nation engagement to the left.



NARP does not replace detailed technical dialogue. It allows that dialogue to begin from a position of greater mutual confidence.

The strategic proposition

Confidence before crisis.

Evidence before urgency.

Assurance before exchange.

QUESTIONS / DISCUSSION

NARP converts national safety evidence into trusted multinational assurance.

That assurance supports proportional safety, operational readiness and interoperability from competition through conflict.