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# **NATO STANDARD**

## **APP-36**

# **NATO STANDARD IDENTITY DESCRIPTION STRUCTURE FOR TACTICAL USE**

**Edition A, Version 1**

**JANUARY 2023**



**NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION**

**ALLIED PROCEDURAL PUBLICATION**

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**NATO LETTER OF PROMULGATION**

26 January 2023

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Dimitrios SIGOULAKIS  
Lieutenant General, GRC (A)  
Director, NATO Standardization Office

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<b>CHAPTER 1     STANDARD IDENTITIES AND DESCRIPTORS</b>
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**1.1. INTRODUCTION****1.1.1. Scope**

This publication provides the Standard Identities, Amplifying/Modifying Descriptors and the terms used for the environments in which the identities are to be used to ensure the compatibility and, to the greatest extent possible, the interoperability of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) when exchanging tactical information by all media. It replaces the content of STANAG 1241 (Edition 5) and is intended to be equally applicable to operations conducted by a coalition of NATO, partners, non-NATO nations or other organizations. For NATO reporting purposes, APP-36 takes precedence over ACP-165 and APP-07.

**1.1.2. Elements of information**

There are many elements of information which contribute to the assessment of the degree of threat of a platform. While assigning an order to these elements, it is clear that circumstances alone will dictate which elements are available and the order in which they become available. These elements are:

- a.     **Environment descriptor.** The environment in which a track operates:
  - (1)     Surface (sea)
  - (2)     Sub-Surface (sea)
  - (3)     Land
  - (4)     Air
  - (5)     Space
  - (6)     Unknown (yet to be determined)
- b.     **Standard Identities.** The Standard Identities, defined in Annex A:
  - (1)     UNKNOWN
  - (2)     ASSUMED FRIEND
  - (3)     FRIEND
  - (4)     NEUTRAL

- (5) SUSPECT
- (6) HOSTILE
- c. **Amplifying/Modifying Descriptor.** Descriptors which amplify/modify the Standard Identities, defined in Annex B:
  - (1) FAKER<sup>1</sup>
  - (2) JOKER
  - (3) KILO (implementation of this descriptor is not mandatory)
  - (4) TRAVELLER (implementation of this descriptor is not mandatory)
  - (5) ZOMBIE
- d. **Additional information such as:**
  - (1) Platform
  - (2) Position
  - (3) Course
  - (4) Speed
  - (5) Depth or Height
  - (6) Time
  - (7) Activity and other information

### 1.1.3. Assignment of Identity

1. **Pending.** Tracks which have not been subject to the identification process but which are available for reporting may be reported with a status of PENDING. (APP-07)
2. **Identification Criteria.** It is the operational commander's prerogative to establish and/or change the criteria to be satisfied in assigning a Standard Identity. An identity other than UNKNOWN is only to be applied to a track if sufficient identification has taken place to meet the requirements of that identity.
3. **Identity Difference Resolution.** If identity conflicts occur, resolution procedures shall be determined by the Operational Commander.

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<sup>1</sup> On a joint automatic data system interface "FAKER" exercise air tracks should be translated as FRIEND Special Mission FAKER in accordance with STANAG 5601.

4. **Special Interest.** Provision may be made to indicate that a track is of special interest because of its condition (e.g.: Emergency).

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<b>ANNEX A</b>	<b>STANDARD IDENTITY DEFINITIONS</b>
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UNKNOWN	In identification, the designation given to an evaluated track, object or entity that has not been identified. (NATOTerm database)
ASSUMED FRIEND	In identification, the designation given to a track, object or entity whose characteristics, behaviour or origin indicate that it is a probable friend. (NATOTerm database)
FRIEND	In identification, the designation given to a track, object or entity belonging to a declared, presumed or recognized friendly nation, faction or group. (NATOTerm database)
NEUTRAL	In identification, the designation given to a track, object or entity whose characteristics, behaviour, origin or nationality indicate that it is neither supporting nor opposing friendly forces. (NATOTerm database)
SUSPECT	In identification, the designation given to a track, object or entity whose characteristics, behaviour or origin indicate that it is a potential threat to friendly forces. (NATOTerm database)
HOSTILE	In identification, the designation given to a track, object or entity whose characteristics, behaviour or origin indicate that it is a threat to friendly forces. Designation as hostile does not necessarily imply clearance to engage. (NATOTerm database)

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**ANNEX B****AMPLIFYING/MODIFYING DESCRIPTORS DEFINITIONS**

FAKER	A friendly track acting as a HOSTILE for exercise purposes.
JOKER	A friendly track acting as a SUSPECT for exercise purposes.
KILO	A friendly track of special interest.
TRAVELLER	A SUSPECT surface track following a recognised traffic route.
ZOMBIE	A SUSPECT air track conforming to ATC rules or following a recognised traffic pattern.

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