



**ALASKA LAND MOBILE RADIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
(A Federal, State and Municipal Partnership)**



**MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council**

**July 16, 2020**

**FROM: SOA Co-Chair**

**SUBJECT: April 16 Meeting Minutes**

**TO: See Distribution**

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**Executive Council Members Present: (all members attended via teleconference)**

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|---------------------------------|---|
| Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan | State of Alaska – Department of Public Safety           |
| Colonel Timothy Maxwell         | Department of Defense – ALCOM/J6                        |
| ASAC Adam Pierce                | Federal Non-DOD – Federal Bureau of Investigation       |
| Mr. David Gibbs                 | Alaska Municipal League – Fairbanks North Star Borough  |
| Deputy Chief Michael Kerle      | Municipality of Anchorage – Anchorage Police Department |

**ALMR Support Team Members and Guests Present: (all support staff and guests attended via teleconference)**

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|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mr. John Rockwell   | User Council Chair                   |
| Mr. Del Smith       | ALMR Operations Manager              |
| Mr. Scott Stormo    | SOA ALMR Program Manager             |
| Mr. Trygve Erickson | Municipality of Anchorage/AWARN      |
| Mr. Jim Nichol      | Motorola Solutions                   |
| Mr. Sean Kostelnik  | Motorola Solutions                   |
| Ms. Naomi Ulrich    | Motorola Solutions                   |
| Mr. David Reed      | Information Systems Security Manager |
| Ms. Sherry Shafer   | Operations Management Office         |

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**1. Call to Order.** Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan, State of Alaska (SOA) Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. Deputy Commissioner Morgan declined to have the roll call read.

## **2. Opening Statements and Other Announcements.**

Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked if there were any opening statements or special announcements.

Colonel Timothy Maxwell thanked everyone for the last three years and thanked everyone for making him feel welcome. He advised the Executive Council that this was his last meeting, as he is moving on to his next assignment and noted Colonel (Select) Matthew Davis would be his replacement. Additionally, Colonel Maxwell briefed that Lieutenant General Bussiere's change of command was Monday and the new Commander is now Lieutenant General David Krumm. He stated he was happy his time was ending on a high note and thanked everyone again for all the support. Deputy Commissioner Morgan expressed his thanks for the military support during this last legislative session and added the support of Lt Gen Bussiere helped push it over the top.

**3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.** Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked if everyone had the opportunity to read the minutes and asked if there were any changes.

**Motion: Approve the January 16, Executive Council meeting minutes, as written.**

Hearing no requests for changes Deputy Commissioner Morgan requested a motion of approval. Colonel Maxwell made the motion and it was seconded by ASAC Pierce. There were no objections or further discussion. **The motion was carried and approved.**

## **4. Old Business.**

a. SOA Quantar Replacement. Deputy Commissioner Morgan stated they got the money for the Quantars, but reiterated that was largely attributed to the lean in by Lt Gen Bussiere. He added the prior studies were also very powerful and gave them the opportunity to explain it all.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan noted although he had not seen it, he was told there was yet another request for a study attached to the funding. He added until he sees it, he will table this discussion item. **(TABLED)**

b. State Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB). Deputy Commissioner Morgan advised he didn't have anything on this, with the other legislative priorities, this had fallen away.

Mr. David Gibbs asked if there was any thought about changing some of appointees.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan noted he would go back and lean on Mr. John Rockwell when he thinks we can put together a SIGB, but agreed there were going to be

appointee changes as Chief Jeff Tucker had retired. He stated this was something important that needed to be focused on.

c. Long-term Cost Share Solution. Deputy Commissioner Morgan stated that piggy backing off of item b, from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) standpoint, this was asked about frequently by the legislature. He noted his response was without a SIGB representative of the locals, DPS is not comfortable making a pricing scheme. Deputy Commissioner Morgan added that if we really want a consortium, it should come from the SIGB and a statute and be fully representative of the body it's supporting, and that will continue to be his standard answer.

Mr. Del Smith added one of the issues with cost share is the Operations Management Office (OMO) does the calculations by hand every calendar year and those are sent out with the membership agreements. He added before we go too far down this road as we move toward cost share allocations for everyone, we need to have a system where there are no cracks. Mr. Smith added as we move toward this, there has always been a substantial amount of resistance at the local level.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan stated this is absolutely correct and at the macro level, should we even do it and who makes those decisions. He also noted at the micro level, how are we going to objectively access cost sharing.

Mr. Smith briefed in the early stages of ALMR, about 2007 or 2008, there was an annual meeting of all the agencies that could come in and the administrator for the Department of Administration (DOA) said everybody is going to pay and that was not well received.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan stated it was to their benefit to have locals on the System

ASAC Pierce asked if there was a projected cost on the Federal side; where is it going to go in the next five years.

Colonel Maxwell told ASAC Pierce he would ask Mr. Timothy Woodall to get back with him.

Mr. Smith advised that ASAC Pierce was right and a couple years ago a discussion was had with the Federal agencies who were looking for some kind of five-year projection to do their budgets on. He briefed the idea was developed and pushed up to DOA, but got no reaction that he knew of, and subsequently fell to the way side. Mr. Smith expects they want to have more than a one year horizon to do their budgets on.

Mr. Gibbs noted he appreciated Deputy Commissioner Morgan's perspective on the issue and supported what he and Mr. Smith had both said about having a systematic process.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan noted he just wanted everyone to know what his message back to the legislature had been that we all need to be on the System and that is what they will continue to do.

d. Operations Management Office (OMO) Contract. Mr. Scott Stormo stated a Notice of Intent to award the contract has gone out. He added there were a couple proposal received and Wostmann and Associates had scored the highest and the next step was a clarification discussion, which was scheduled next week. Mr. Stormo noted this was part of the normal process and he didn't see any hiccups in the near term. He noted the notice had been submitted to DOA, but he had not heard if it had been approved by them or if it had gone to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval. Mr. Stormo clarified that until it is approved, the procurement folks can't award the contract. He suggested to Deputy Commissioner Morgan that it would be helpful if he asked a question of their commissioner's office.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan stated he could pick that up.

Mr. Rockwell added the intent was to provide an overlap between the old and new, so they hope to have the contract start in June.

## **5. User Council Update.**

a. Vacant Positions. Mr. Rockwell briefed there was still a vacancy in the alternate Federal Non-DOD BLM position and it had been vacant for two years.

ASAC Pierce stated he thought the BLM had agreed to fill the position and Mr. Rockwell noted they had, but nothing official had been received from them

ASAC Pierce noted if there was anything he could do to move it along, just let him know.

Mr. Rockwell stated he has not been receiving all his State emails, so he would recheck it again.

b. Incident Command Zones. Mr. Rockwell briefed many of the radio templates have been developed and the transition plan has been established. He stated the current issue being worked is with the consoles and that the dispatch centers have been engaged and everything seems to be moving forward. Mr. Rockwell stated anytime anyone has reprogramming to do, they are being encourage to limit the number of talkgroups.

## **6. Operations Management Office.**

a. USARAK Battery Plant Rectifier Issues. Mr. Smith advised the council the cutover occurred on February 3 and there were no issues. He noted, however, that on March 10 the Master Site UPS bypass failed and dropped the interzone link. Mr. Smith briefed the System Management Office (SMO) was able to add a circuit to get the link back up but the Master Site is currently operating on AC power only and it should not be.

Mr. Smith added the State replaced their UPS last year and Mr. Stormo provided all the information from that to USARAK, but there was no word on the status of the repairs.

Colonel Maxwell stated he would take this for action and follow up with the 59<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Smith advised Mr. Rick Williams briefed at the User Council meeting he was working it and trying to get something done.

b. 7.17.3 Upgrade. Mr. Del Smith stated as far as ALMR is concerned, this action is complete. He added there were still some funding issues the State was working out.

c. Zone 2 Outage. Mr. Smith briefed the outage occurred last October and Motorola Solutions had explained the problem was the virtual management server (VMS) became unresponsive and stopped booting, which caused the Zone controllers to come back up in the standby mode and required a second reboot. He added, as he understood it, Motorola is currently writing the code to correct this issue and also discovered the VMS issue was found to have a bad driver.

Mr. Smith briefed at the last update, Motorola was testing the fix on their platform and would then get it out to the System. He asked Ms. Naomi Ulrich if he had stated everything correctly and she confirmed he had.

Ms. Ulrich also added they were still waiting for the update to come out.

d. DOD Microwave Hops. Mr. Smith briefed, as far as he knew, the funding for these upgrades was supposed to be included in the next upgrade.

e. Console Reboots. Mr. Smith noted all of the 16 previously delinquent consoles had been rebooted as of February 20.

f. Quarterly Zone Controller Rollover. Mr. Smith advised the first quarter rollover took place on February 18 and 19 and there were no issues. He added the next quarterly rollover was scheduled for May 6 and 7 and he had sent out the first notice last week. Mr. Smith reminded everyone that he and Mr. Travis Conant, the System Manager, would be coming in and contacting all the dispatch centers prior to the event to get an okay to proceed.

g. Harris ATP. Mr. Smith briefed the retest of the Harris radios had been delayed until further notice due to COVID-19.

h. RMF Status. Mr. Smith advised the package was still being reviewed and Mr. David Reed confirmed this.

Mr. Reed stated he would check on it again later this afternoon.

Colonel Maxwell added to let him know if there were issues getting this moving and he would take care of it.

i. Ted Stevens RF Site. Mr. Smith reminded the council members the site was turned off on February 3 for an initial test period of 60 days. He stated he had polled the agencies prior to the shutdown and again after the site was off and had received no negative feedback. Mr. Smith briefed that in conjunction with the State, they had agreed to leave the site off for the time being.

j. Annual Inventory Confirmations. Mr. Smith stated the notification letters were distributed in January and currently 71 of 131 forms have been returned. He added the suspense is April 30 for completion and agencies needing an extension only have to contact the OMO and request one.

k. March System Metrics. Mr. Smith briefed there were 1,040,225 group calls, 1,887,740 PTTs, both down from February. He added there were 181 busies, which was the exact same amount as February.

l. System Change Management Requests. Mr. Smith advised the OMO is not always informed in a timely manner regarding the removal of equipment and there had been a number of MotoBridges removed over the past several years. He stated the OMO would be sending out signature pages for six separate changes requests to the council for signature in the next few days.

## **7. New Business.**

System Lifecycle Management Discussion. Mr. Stormo stated Motorola had done what they'd done in the past and walked the group through the lifecycle management process with discussions on future upgrades. He noted the naming for future upgrades would be changing from the current format to one utilizing calendar years as the primary identifier. Mr. Stormo added that Motorola had also talked about the System Upgrade Assurance (SUA) and operationalizing capital costs.

**8. Next Meeting.** Deputy Commissioner Morgan briefed the next meeting is was scheduled for July 16, 2020. He stated this would be the first time in 13 years Mr. Smith wouldn't be at the meeting and added Del was one of the best men he's known.

Colonel Maxwell thanked Mr. Smith for his assistance during his first meetings and helping him get in the groove. He added he hoped to be able to see him again before July.

ASAC Pierce echoed the other comments and also added the Federal Non-DOD agencies may be the only other agency, other than the DOD, that has frequent turnovers and that they appreciate the support they've always received.

Mr. Jim Nicholl stated as another person who has been around since ALMR came into existence, he appreciated all Del's efforts.

Mr. Trygve Erickson noted he and Del had been working together in some capacity for the last 40 years and he'd been through enough of his retirement ceremonies to understand Del may still come back.

Mr. Smith thanked everyone for their kind comments and stated he had enjoyed the past 13 years being involved in his current capacity as the Operations Manager, as well as being involved in ALMR since 1996. He added he looked forward to hopefully seeing everyone in July as he helped the new Operations Manager transition in.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan reminded everyone again the next meeting was July 16.

**9. Adjourn Meeting.** Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked if there was any further discussion and hearing none requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion: Adjourn the April 16 Executive Council meeting.**

The motion was made by Colonel Maxwell and seconded by ASAC Pierce. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:19 p.m.



Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan  
Department of Public Safety  
ALMR Executive Council

**Distribution:**

SOA/DPS, Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan  
USNORTHCOM ALCOM J6, Colonel Matthew "Pudge" Davis  
FBI, ASAC Adam Pierce  
AML, Mr. David Gibbs  
MOA, Deputy Chief Michael Kerle  
OMO, Mr. Chris Letterman  
SOA DOA, Mr. Craig Christenson  
SOA DOA, Mr. Scott Stormo  
ALCOM/J64, Mr. Timothy Woodall  
MOA, Mr. Trygve Erickson  
SOA DPS, Mr. John Rockwell  
SOA DOA, Mr. Randy Kilbourne