



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



MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council

April 18, 2019

FROM: DOD Co-Chair

SUBJECT: January 17 Meeting Minutes

TO: See Distribution

Executive Council Members Present:

Colonel Timothy Maxwell
Deputy Commissioner Michael Duxbury

ASAC Antony Jung

Mr. Dave Koch

Department of Defense – ALCOM/J6
State of Alaska – Department of
Public Safety (via teleconference)
Alaska Federal Executive Association -
Federal Bureau of Investigation
(via teleconference)
Municipality of Anchorage – Anchorage
Police Department

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests Present:

Mr. John Rockwell
Mr. Nate Skinner
Mr. Del Smith
Mr. Scott Stormo
Mr. Tim Woodall
Mr. Trygve Erickson
Mr. John Roberts
Ms. Bonnie Clark

Mr. David Reed

Mr. Jim Nichol
Mr. Joe Piksa
Mr. Sean Kostelnik
Ms. Sherry Shafer

User Council Chair
User Council Vice Chair
Operations Manager
SOA ALMR Program Manager
DOD ALMR Program Manager
MOA AWARN Manager
SOA OIT
Information Systems Security Manager
(outgoing)
Information Systems Security Manager
(incoming)
Motorola Solutions
Motorola Solutions
Motorola Solutions
Operations Management Office (via
teleconference)

1. **Call to Order.** Colonel Timothy Maxwell, Department of Defense (DOD) Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. Roll call was read.

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

Colonel Maxwell asked if there were any announcements and there was no response.

3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.** Colonel Maxwell asked the other council member if they had reviewed the October meeting minutes and had any changes. There were no responses.

Motion: Approve the Oct 25, 2018, Executive Council meeting minutes, as written.

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

4. **Old Business.**

a. SOA Quantar Replacement/Separation Study. Mr. Timothy Woodall addressed the separation study stating Motorola had provided updated pricing the last time the Executive Council had met.

Mr. Scott Stormo stated he was still working with Mr. Joe Piksa on the State of Alaska (SOA) updates.

Mr. Woodall advised the document on separating the partnership should be available by the end of the month.

Mr. John Rockwell reminded the council they had requested the User Council (UC) review the Separation Study and requested an open action to provide the Operations Management Office (OMO) with the copies of the completed studies, which would be sent to the UC to review the impacts to areas like FCC licensing and sharing agreements.

Mr. Stormo then addressed the Quantar replacement stating they were waiting to see the Governor's budget. He added the budget would still need to go through the Legislature and it looked like they were going to do some significant reductions.

b. State Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB). Mr. Rockwell briefed they were still re-aligning the members and working with the Governor's office on the new list. He added he was in continued discussion with the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) and Mr. Bruce Richter and their anticipated involvement at the first meeting.

c. 9-1-1 Enhancement. Mr. John Roberts briefed the proposal is still out there, but recommended this be closed until they had a funded project. After some discussion among the council members it was agreed the item would be **CLOSED**.

d. Long-term Cost Share Solution. Mr. Smith reminded the group the Federal Non-DOD agencies were looking for a multi-year contract on cost share. Mr. Stormo stated the conversations need to start again with the Department of Justice (DOJ) member agencies.

Mr. Woodall suggested a date be set for the cost share discussions and possible long-term cost share agreements.

5. User Council Update.

a. Vacant Council Positions. Mr. Rockwell briefed there was a currently vacancy for the alternate Federal Non-DOD Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and both the primary and alternate Municipalities-North positions.

b. Annual Elections. Mr. Rockwell noted both he and Mr. Skinner were re-elected as the Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

c. UC Subcommittees. Mr. Rockwell asked Mr. Skinner to update the council on this item.

Mr. Skinner stated the Codeplug and Talkgroup Subcommittee was designed to help all users on the System. He noted they agreed to meet monthly the next Wednesday after the UC monthly meeting and were currently reviewing codeplugs. Mr. Skinner added, as far as talkgroups were concerned, the Incident Command (IC) Zones could be tweaked and they had some discussion on how to address excess talkgroups.

Mr. Woodall asked if he was talking about the Statewide or Regional IC zones and Mr. Skinner stated both, although the Regional was not getting used much.

6. Operations Management Office.

a. November 30 Earthquake. Mr. Smith stated during the November 30 earthquake, ALMR performed exactly as we would want it to perform. He noted three sites in Wasilla bounced and came back and there were no interruptions after that. Mr. Smith added the leased fiber at the Goose Creek Correctional Center was down two hours until Matanuska Telephone Association (MTA) could fix it. He advised the usage in the 24 hours from the earthquake resulted in 143,599 push to talks (PTTs) totaling 403.6 cumulative hours of airtime with 2,350 busies. Mr. Smith pointed out if there had been fires, gas leaks, injuries, etc., we would have had much more stress put on the System and that we need to increase capacity at all the three-channel sites.

Mr. Smith also briefed the Anchorage Wide Area Radio Network (AWARN) had 53,940 PTTs, totaling 148 hours of airtime with 2,911 busies. He noted the System Management Office (SMO) had reviewed the usage during the 24-hour period and did not find any agencies on the System that shouldn't have been actively working public safety missions.

To help put the usage in perspective, Mr. Smith noted that on December 7, an average day, ALMR had 91,725 PTTs with 230 hours of airtime and AWARN had 28,463 PTTs with 72 hours of airtime. He added the 24 hours after the earthquake was almost double a normal day's usage. Mr. Smith stated he thought it was pretty impressive but we cannot rest on our laurels as this quake was centered in the Anchorage/Wasilla area and not as widespread as it could have been.

Mr. Smith advised that the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) had hired a contractor to do an after-action report (AAR) on the earthquake and had interviewed him and the SMO. He stated when he obtained a copy of the report, he would pass it to the EC and the UC.

Mr. Smith concluded by saying the SMO took great care of everyone during the event. He added he had reached out to several agencies on ALMR performance and read the statement from the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities for the council.

b. Fourth Quarter Master Site Rollover. Mr. Smith advised the rollover occurred on December 19 and 20 and there were no issues. He added there would be one more prior to the 7.17 upgrade.

c. FirstNet Donor Radios. Mr. Smith briefed that the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) had requested permission to link cell phone to a FirstNet donor radio talkgroup. He asked Mr. Tryge Erickson if he knew why they were trying to do this since they already had a WAVE system which does the same thing. Mr. Erickson stated he didn't know.

Mr. Rockwell advised that Mr. Skinner was going to obtain two donor radios to do some testing with FirstNet but he would be focusing on conventional frequencies. He added they would look at the ramifications of donor radio usage.

Mr. Smith added there were numerous security questions that must be answered regarding this type of connection with the System.

Colonel Maxwell asked why they were called donor radios and Mr. Smith explained they are attached to the System in some manner and used to send a signal to another device (i.e. cell phone); they are not actively used in the manner intended.

Mr. Woodall stated a donor radio is basically used like a gateway. He added there are issues with attaching external devices to the enclave from a security perspective.

Mr. Rockwell stated the Troopers were considering the use of Iridium satellite phones, which would connect via low earth orbit satellites, for remote parts of the state. He added they were going to test them in Kotzebue on Monday.

Deputy Commissioner Duxbury asked if the Iridium was one to many or one to one.

Mr. Stormo stated it was one to many and that AT&T was testing an interface with Fairbanks using a base interface module (BIM) patch. He added the Iridium can only be tied to a single talkgroup at a time and each agency has to buy their monthly coverage for use.

Deputy Commissioner Duxbury asked if this was a way of expanding into the Artic areas.

Mr. Erickson stated the problem with the Iridium is the latency issue, which is very concerning, because it's almost ten times what a two-way user is used to.

Mr. Woodall advised the DOD has ten that they bridge through a ACU gateway rather than direct connect. He added they have been testing all different ways to connect on a daily basis.

d. Annual Document Approvals. Mr. Smith stated that after the meeting the OMO would be sending the council members the 2018 Business Case, the 2018 User Council Report on System Operations and Management and the 2018 Operations Management Office Information Assurance Report of Findings for their review and approval. He added the documents had already been approved by the User Council.

e. December System Metrics. Mr. Smith provided the council the October metrics and the November metrics to provide a comparison that even with the earthquake, the PTTs were still down in November by approximately 200k.

f. Rumor Control. Mr. Smith briefed he had received an email from a National Guard unit yesterday stating they heard ALMR is going away because of FirstNet. He stated he had provided the individual the last four quarterly newsletter, which contain articles on the subject of LMR being here for a long time to come, along with links to other articles on the subject.

Captain Dave Koch added he had run the Emergency Operations Center for the first 24 hours after the earthquake, and although they have FirstNet devices, the radio is essential.

7. New Business.

a. OMO Contract. Mr. Stormo advised the council the OMO contract is out of option years and ends June 30, therefore it's time for the partners to get together and discuss it. He added the current vendor will have to re-compete for the contract.

Mr. Woodall stated they would need to review the statement of work and update it as necessary and provide it to the Contracting Office soon in order to have it in place by July 1.

Mr. Smith added he would like to see the training component added back in.

Mr. Woodall stated this could be done as an option and also recommended the contract be done as a sole source approach. He briefed there is an advantage in keeping the same people in place and certainly risk in any new organization without the background and understanding trying to come in.

Mr. Stormo stated they would need to make a requirement for an overlap if there was a change, as there is a ton of history that could just walk out the door.

Mr. Smith reminded the council the last time the contract was bid, SOA contacting allowed it be opened back up after it was closed to allow another group, with no understanding of ALMR, to put in a bid. He added it was unlikely he will be here for the next contract but will help in the transition. Mr. Smith added he's been involved with ALMR since its inception, a total of 22 years.

Mr. Woodall asked this issue be left open and discussed again at the next quarterly meeting for an update.

b. 7.17 Upgrade. Mr. Woodall stated the 7.17 upgrade is moving forward and the kickoff meeting will be scheduled for February. He added the DOD is funded or affirmed and appropriated but not committed. Mr. Woodall added the Eielson and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) dollars are at the Defense Finance and Accounting System (DFAS) though a reconciliation document so they can be invoiced. He explained the Army is being funded through a Program Element Organization (PEO) at Fort Mead, which is responsible for all their LMR worldwide. Mr. Woodall added \$2.3M would be moving to USARAK and they would pay Motorola manually when an invoice is received. He advised Clear AFS was funded by the (big) Air Force and the only agency not funded yet was NORTHCOM for the transportables, but this doesn't affect the System and there is no impact to moving forward.

Mr. Erickson stated the MOA was approximately three weeks until their funding should be approved and were still making small changes to the proposal with Mr. Piksa. He added they could cut a purchase order after February.

Mr. Sean Kostelnik briefed between him and Mr. Piksa they would make sure project managers were identified and a schedule was ready by the February meeting.

Mr. Woodall stated the funds needed to all be expended by August.

8. Next Meeting. Colonel Maxwell briefed the next meeting is was scheduled for April 18.

ASAC Jung stated the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had promoted him and he would be departing before the next meeting. He added Adam Pierce would be taking his place and he would bring him up to speed on everything.

9. Adjourn Meeting. There was no further discussion and Colonel Maxwell asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Deputy Commissioner Michael Duxbury made the motion and it was seconded by ASAC Jung. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

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Date: 2019.04.26 11:31:11 -08'00'
Timothy P. Maxwell, Colonel, USAF
USNORTHCOM ALCOM J6
ALMR Executive Council

Distribution:

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MOA, Captain Julie Shank
OMO, Mr. Del Smith
SOA DOA, Mr. Chris White
SOA DOA, Mr. Scott Stormo
ALCOM/J64, Mr. Timothy Woodall
MOA, Mr. Trygve Erickson
SOA DPS, Mr. John Rockwell
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