



A FEDERAL, STATE AND MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP

Alaska Land Mobile Radio

*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: February 5, 2014

1. Attendance.

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|
| P = Present | T = Via Telephone | E = Excused | U = Unexcused | N/A = Not required |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|

User Council Members

| Primary | | | | |
|---------|--------------|---------|-------|--|
| T | Adams | Ocie | Mr. | SOA DOT&PF |
| E | Beals | Mark | Chief | Municipalities Central, Bear Creek Fire Service Area |
| E | Fronterhouse | Bev | Ms | Fed Non-DOD, Bureau of Land Management |
| T | Halden | Jordan | Mr. | SOA All Others, DNR Forestry |
| E | Johnson | Brad | Chief | Municipalities Northern , Fairbanks PD |
| T | Lampshire | Chris | Mr. | Fed Non-DOD, US Forest Service |
| P | Leveque | Matt | MAJ | SOA DPS, AST, Chair |
| T | Martin | Chris | Mr. | DOD USAF, Eielson AFB |
| | VACANT | | | Fed Non-DOD, FBI, Vice Chair |
| U | Mitchell | William | Mr. | DOD USAF, JBER |
| U | Sell | Kris | Lt | Municipalities Southeast, Juneau PD |
| U | Williams | Rick | GS-12 | DOD US Army Alaska |

| Alternate | | | | |
|-----------|---------|-------|-----|---|
| U | Arasz | Paul | Mr. | Fed Non-DOD, FBI |
| T | Flowers | Alvin | Mr. | Fed Non-DOD, TSA |
| T | Gibbs | David | Mr. | Municipalities Northern, Fairbanks North Star Borough Emergency Manager |
| T | Goggia | Tammy | Ms. | Municipalities Central, Soldotna AST Dispatch |
| N/A | Jones | Dave | Mr. | DOD USAF, Eielson AFB |
| N/A | Kain | Paul | Mr. | Fed Non-DOD, USFS |
| U | Lewis | Mike | Mr. | Fed Non-DOD, US Fish & Wildlife Service |
| N/A | Patz | Greg | Mr. | SOA DOT |
| | VACANT | | | DOD USAF, JBER |
| | VACANT | | | SOA All Others |
| | VACANT | | | DOD US Army |
| | VACANT | | | SOA DPS, AST |

Supporting Staff and Guests:

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| P | Borg | Casey | Mr. | System Manager |
| T | Crider | Michael | LCDR | US Coast Guard District 17 |
| P | McGrath | Max | Mr. | SOA ETS Program Manager |
| P | Richter | Bruce | Mr. | OEC Region X Coordinator |
| P | Rockwell | John | Mr. | State 911 Coordinator |
| T | Shafer | Sherry | Ms. | Document Specialist |
| P | Smith | Del | Mr. | Operations Manager |
| P | Stormo | Scott | Mr. | SOA ETS |
| T | White | Sharon | Ms. | SOA ETS |
| T | Williams | Jeremy | CWO | US Coast Guard District 17 |



2. Meeting Minutes and Action Items.

| Agenda Item | Discussion | Action Items Assigned |
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| Call to Order | Major Matt Leveque called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. | |
| Roll Call | Roll call was taken and a quorum of User Council (UC) members was in attendance. | |
| Introduction of Guests | There were no special guests. | |
| Previous Meeting Minutes | <p>The minutes from the January meeting were reviewed. Matt explained to the council there was a correction on page 7 under New Business he had not previously responded to. He provided the correction and asked for a motion of approval with the amendment to the minutes.</p> <p>Motion: Accept the January 8, 2014, meeting minutes, as amended.</p> <p>Motion: Mr. David Gibbs Second: Mr. Ocie Adams</p> <p>There were no objections. The motion passed.</p> | |
| Issues & Risks Log | Active Issues | Action Items Assigned |
| | <p>Item #57 – This item remains open due to the fact the DPS alternate, SOA-All Others alternate and DOD US Army alternate positions are all vacant.</p> <p>Update: The OMO advised the council members they were recently advised the alternate DOD-JBER represented had retired and that position was now vacant.</p> | |
| | Pending Issues | |
| | There were no pending issues. | |
| | Issues Closed at, or since, last meeting | |
| | There were no issues closed. | |
| Action Items Review | Opened Items | Resolution |
| | There were not action items from the January meeting to review. | |
| Operations Management Office | Mr. Del Smith, Operations Manager | Action Items Assigned |
| Encryption | 1. Mr. Del Smith advised the council that recently there was an agency utilizing ALMR who believed their radios were in the encrypted mode. When they responded to a call and entered the civilian residence, they heard the radio transmissions over a civilian scanner inside. Del stated it appeared they were operating in the clear and he stressed that those personnel who utilize subscribers need to make sure they know which button to | |



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| <p>IC/OP/Admin/ Regional Zones</p> <p>Next Sites for Upgrade</p> | <p>use and make sure their radio is in the secure mode.</p> <p>Matt briefed it was some of his troopers out in the valley who had been involved.</p> <p>Del stated agencies should change their encryption code from time to time, but the task is particularly onerous for agencies that have a large number of units spread all over the state.</p> <p>Matt advised DPS was looking into doing that and had re-evaluated if they should do it annually. He briefed they hadn't figured out how to accomplish it in a timely manner without affecting operations.</p> <p>2. Del advised the council that recently an agency called the Operations Management Office (OMO), because they were coming up on an exercise, and asked if the IC Zone had changed recently because it didn't match what was in their radios.</p> <p>Del stated he advised the agency the CONOP had the most recent versions of the zone lineup and he had briefed the changes at the May 2012 meeting.</p> <p>Del also advised the agency there was an article in the April 2011 newsletter regarding the change that was to take place effective January 1, 2013.</p> <p>3. Del briefed the council on the discussion from the meeting between ETS and the OMO and System Management Office (SMO) regarding the next sites to consider for capacity upgrades in the coming year. He explained they had looked at the previous suggestions from the UC as well as the busy reports; the sites discussed were Tok, Tolsona, Glennallen and Willow Mountain.</p> <p>Del stated what he was seeking today was discussion from the council whether they still believed these sites should be the next ones to receive capacity upgrades.</p> <p>Del also advised the council members the decision had been made to temporarily shut off three channels at Fire Station 12 along the Seward Highway. The site was built as a 10-channel site but one channel had never been turned on due to a licensing issue. He explained the SMO turned off the three channels in mid January to see if it would have any affect and so far there was nothing noticeable.</p> <p>Del suggested the channels that had been turned off, as well as the channel not previously licensed, might be available for re-distribution to alleviate the busies at some of the higher traffic</p> | |
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| <p>System Subscriber Capacity</p> | <p>Matt stated he had been asked on several occasions what the process was for leveraging cheaper subscriber units because it seemed the System was "all about Motorola™;" this was one of the chief complaints that always surfaced. He stated the Department of Public Safety (DPS) was looking at a complete overhaul of their Gold Elite consoles in the next few years and he was extremely interested in seeing the testing process vetted as quickly as possible.</p> <p>Max stated the question regarding China was a good one. He suggested the SMO begin the preliminary steps to identify some vendors and set up a test bed for the consoles. This would allow agencies to look at the top vendors and then go through the selection process for their individual agencies.</p> <p>Max asked Casey if he would research other Systems to see if they had a mix of consoles.</p> <p>Del stated he had attended a Public Safety Technology Interoperability Workgroup (PTIG) demonstration at the International Wireless Communications Expo (IWCE) in 2013 where other consoles were integrated and operated with the ASTRO 25 System and it worked in that controlled environment.</p> <p>Max stated if we could consolidate devices on the System, and the easier it was to make it to use, more people would be likely to use it.</p> <p>3. Mr. Bruce Richter asked Casey if he could address whether there was a move to address capacity constraints pointed out during the upgrade. He gave the scenario of a large earthquake exercise where large numbers of personnel came in from out of state and needed to operate on the System.</p> <p>Casey stated the proper use of the Incident Command (IC) Zone talkgroups, rather than adding talkgroups, would alleviate some of that concern. He advised he thought the issue of concern was during the 7.13 upgrade, Motorola™ pointed out the number of authorized subscribers allowed on the System had been exceeded.</p> <p>Del interjected it was a licensing issue not a System capacity issue and Casey clarified that during the upgrade this was addressed and the current allotted number of subscriber units the System is now licensed for is 25,000.</p> <p>Bruce asked, if in an emergency situation, would Motorola™ allow that number to be temporarily bumped up.</p> <p>Casey stated he could not speculate on what direction Motorola™ would or would not take regarding emergency</p> | |
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| | subscriber number increases during disasters. | |
| State of Alaska | Mr. Max McGrath, SOA | Action Items Assigned |
| Current Projects | <p>Mr. Max McGrath stated ETS was continuing to meet with Casey and Del to discuss areas and projects that still needed attention.</p> <p>He briefed technicians from ETS and the SMO would be going to Delta Junction to conduct coverage testing this month, as promised.</p> | |
| Department of Defense | Mr. Tim Woodall, ALMR DOD Representative | Action Items Assigned |
| | Mr. Woodall was not in attendance; therefore no update was provided. | |
| Old Business | Discussion | Action Items Assigned |
| | There were no Old Business items. | |
| New Business | Discussion | Action Items Assigned |
| ALMR Training | <p>Del advised the council, although it wasn't technically a New Business item, he felt it was important to present.</p> <p>He stated, in the on-going outreach effort, there were two ALMR radio training classes scheduled for February 10 and both were almost full.</p> | |
| Next meeting | Discussion | |
| | <p>Matt announced the next two regularly scheduled meetings were March 5 and April 2.</p> <p>He advised the council it was helpful that the members were letting him and the OMO know when they were unable to attend.</p> | |
| Adjournment | Discussion | |
| | <p>Matt asked the council members if there were any additional items for discussion. Hearing none, he requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Adjourn the February User Council meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Ocie Second: David</p> <p>There were no objections. The motion passed.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.</p> | |