



A FEDERAL, STATE AND MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP

Alaska Land Mobile Radio

*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: January 8, 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 |
| T | Beals | Mark | Chief | Municipalities Central, Bear Creek Fire Service Area |
| T | 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 |
| P | Murphy | Peter | Mr. | Fed Non-DOD, FBI, Vice Chair |
| U | Mitchell | William | Mr. | DOD USAF, JBER |
| T | Sell | Kris | Lt | Municipalities Southeast, Juneau PD |
| E | Williams | Rick | GS-12 | DOD US Army Alaska |

| Alternate | | | | |
|-----------|---------|--------|------|---|
| N/A | 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 |
| E | 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 |
| N/A | Lewis | Mike | Mr. | Fed Non-DOD, US Fish & Wildlife Service |
| N/A | Patz | Greg | Mr. | SOA DOT |
| U | Rollins | Kermit | TSgt | DOD USAF, JBER |
| | VACANT | | | SOA All Others |
| | VACANT | | | DOD US Army |
| | VACANT | | | SOA DPS, AST |

Supporting Staff and Guests :

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| T | Borg | Casey | Mr. | System Manager |
| P | McGrath | Max | Mr. | SOA ETS Program Manager |
| P | Kroona | Jon | Mr. | FBI, Guest |
| P | Leber | Rich | Mr. | Technical Advisor |
| T | Netting | Kim | Ms. | ETS, Juneau |
| P | Richter | Bruce | Mr. | OEC Region X Coordinator |
| T | Shafer | Sherry | Ms. | Document Specialist |
| P | Smith | Del | Mr. | Operations Manager |
| T | White | Sharon | Ms. | SOA ETS |
| P | Woodall | Tim | Mr. | DOD COR |



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| T | Wyrick | Ernie | Mr. | Rural Deltana VFD |
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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 1:31 p.m. | |
| Roll Call | Roll call was taken and a quorum of User Council (UC) members was in attendance. | |
| Introduction of Guests | Matt introduced Mr. Bruce Richter from the Office of Emergency Communications - Region X and Mr. Del Smith introduced Mr. Ernie Wyrick from Rural Deltana. | |
| Previous Meeting Minutes | <p>The minutes from the December meeting were reviewed. Matt asked the council if there were any corrections. Hearing none, he requested a motion of approval.</p> <p>Motion: Accept the December 4, 2013 meeting minutes, as written.</p> <p>Motion: Mr. Ocie Adams Second: Matt</p> <p>There were no objections. The motion passed.</p> | |
| Issues & Risks Log | Active Issues | Action Items Assigned |
| | 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. | |
| | 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 |
| | <p>There was one Action Items from the December meeting and it was closed.</p> <p>1 - OMO to revise paragraph 4.2 of the 2013 Business Case update and distribute to the User Council for approval with a suspense date for response/approval by Friday, December 13. (CLOSED, Dec 6)</p> | |
| Operations Management Office | Mr. Del Smith, Operations Manager | Action Items Assigned |
| Peger Road Additional Channel | 1. Mr. Del Smith briefed the council the additional channel at Peger Road had went live on December 23, but later that evening AST Fairbanks was having difficulty hearing transmissions and the channel was turned off pending | |



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| <p>State of Alaska Legislative Audit</p> | <p>troubleshooting. He advised a Quantar had been converted from conventional to trunked and it was suspected that it required some additional tuning. Therefore, Mr. Casey Borg was currently in Fairbanks to work on resolving the issue.</p> <p>2. Del stated as previously briefed to the council, the Legislative Audit had one finding and recommendation regarding agencies reporting the results of their annual inventories. He explained, in the past, it was difficult to get the agencies to comply with the requests from the System Management Office (SMO).</p> <p>Del explained, at their December meeting, the Executive Council (EC) had requested some action be taken to address the State's concerns regarding EC oversight of the issue. The OMO, as the executive agent for the EC will send out letters to every agency with a form attached for them to sign and return stating the agency has completed an inventory of their subscribers.</p> <p>Del advised if they fail to comply, the EC will be notified and they will then decide what actions to take at that time.</p> <p>Mr. Pete Murphy stated he thought the OMO already audited agencies.</p> <p>Del explained at one time the Operations Management Office (OMO) had done random inspections under the QA/QC function, but that requirement had been dropped from the contract statement of work.</p> <p>Matt stated he thought this course of action made perfect sense.</p> <p>Pete stated he thought it would be an onerous task to send out all subscriber IDs.</p> <p>Del briefed the OMO would not be sending out IDs because the SMO does that each October as a requirement under the Asset Management Procedure.</p> | |
| <p>2013 UC Annual Assessment on System Operations and Management Performance</p> | <p>3. Del briefed the report, which had been distributed to council members prior to the meeting, was a snapshot look at the operations of the System over the previous year, as well as a report card of sorts on how the SMO and OMO are performing.</p> <p>He advised this report is prepared on behalf of the UC to be presented to the EC and requested all comments or approval be emailed to the OMO by close of business on Tuesday, January 14. This would ensure the report was distributed to the EC prior to their January 16 meeting.</p> | |
| <p>2013 Annual Information</p> | <p>4. Del advised the council this report was also a snapshot look of the OMO QA/QC oversight of security of the facility and</p> | |



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| <p>Assurance Audit Report of Findings</p> <p>Southeast Representative</p> <p>Next Sites under Consideration for Capacity Upgrades</p> | <p>System. He requested the council also review the document and provide their approval or comments by Tuesday, as well.</p> <p>5. Del stated he hadn't seen the SE representative for some time. He welcomed Lt Kris Sell back and told her he was glad to see her at the meeting. He advised although there are not many agencies in the SE on ALMR at this time, it is good for them to know they do have representation and someone who can advise them on ALMR.</p> <p>6. Del requested the council start thinking about the next three-channel sites they would like to see receive capacity upgrades. He reminded them at last year's May meeting they had agreed Tok, Glennallen and Willow Mountain should all be upgraded due to the amount of traffic during the fire season.</p> <p>Del discussed the document showing the last six-month statistics regarding the percentage of busies in comparison to the voice calls for all the sites. He requested if there were other sites the council thought merited consideration, they should be prepared to talk about them at the next meeting.</p> <p>Ocie asked about the Hill 3265 site which had a high busy percentage rate.</p> <p>Mr. Tim Woodall stated they had recently had an Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI), which may have contributed some.</p> <p>Del stated the site was also a three-channel site and the base utilized it for telephone interconnect quite often, so this would definitely contribute to the increase in site busies.</p> <p>Del reminded the council there were two additional areas of concern brought up last year; one was the Delta Junction area which had a reduction in coverage after the site was moved to Fort Greely and the other was the Chena Hot Spring Road area which was outside of the ALMR foot print. Del advised Mr. Ernie Wyrick, Rural Deltana VFD, was on the call.</p> <p>Matt asked Ernie if he could provide the council with an assessment of the coverage issues in Delta Junction.</p> <p>Ernie stated coverage had gone down even more recently; in the East and Southeast there is virtually nothing. He stated he had talked to Rural-Deltana and Delta Junction fire chiefs as well as Delta Rescue and they have all stated there is little to no ALMR coverage in the area so they are relying on their conventional channels for 75 percent of their radio traffic.</p> <p>Del reminded the council last year, ETS and the SMO were to work together and look at the coverage issues but Mr. Adam</p> | |
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| <p>Document Reviews</p> <p>December System Metrics</p> | <p>Paulick, who was the SATS Manager at the time, had stated the earliest that would occur was in Spring 2014.</p> <p>Tim stated the Transportable could be used as a possible temporary solution but the power would have to be provided locally to run it.</p> <p>Matt briefed he thought he remembered one of the issues with the deployment of the Transportable to North Pole in the past was the cost for electricity was prohibitive.</p> <p>Del advised Ernie he would talk to him after the meeting about this suggestion and possible resources to connect it.</p> <p>Ernie stated for the most part, 99 percent of the time, the local radios affiliate to Donnelly Dome because Fort Greely is down in a hole. He advised with the low power of the portables, out on Jack Warren Road they can receive transmissions but they cannot get out.</p> <p>Mr. Max McGrath advised that Adam had briefed him on this situation and it was on his list of priorities. He stated he would move it up on the action list.</p> <p>Matt told Ernie it was helpful having someone with firsthand knowledge of the issue at the meeting and thanked him for attending and updating the council.</p> <p>Chief Mark Beals stated he had some concerns about addressing portable coverage issues when the System was designed to provide mobile coverage along the roadway. He stated this sounded similar to the coverage issue in North Pole.</p> <p>Tim stated historically the original System design was sufficient to cover the Delta Junction area and the Motorola® predictions maps were accurate. He advised when the DOD decided to move the site to Fort Greely in 2005, coverage in the area changed significantly.</p> <p>Matt advised Mark his concern was well made, but in North Pole it was strictly a portable issue and didn't affect mobile coverage, so that discussion was eventually tabled. He briefed, having spoken to many of his troopers, it's definitely not exclusively a portable issue in the Delta Junction area.</p> <p>7. Del went over the list of document the OMO had approved since the last meeting and asked the council if they had any questions; there were none.</p> <p>8. Del discussed the December metrics and advised they were consistent with previous years. He did note for the council's</p> | |
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| | benefit that in the six years since the metrics had been tracked, voice calls had doubled. Del stated if anyone heard anything regarding how ALMR didn't work and was not being utilized by agencies in Alaska, they should advise them on this fact. | |
| System Management Office | Mr. Casey Borg, System Manager | Action Items Assigned |
| | Mr. Casey Borg stated he had no additional items to offer the council at this time | |
| State of Alaska | Mr. Max McGrath, SOA | Action Items Assigned |
| | .Mr. Max McGrath stated currently ETS was busy getting their maintenance priorities in order for 2014. He advised he would have more information for the council in February | |
| Department of Defense | Mr. Tim Woodall, ALMR DOD Representative | Action Items Assigned |
| Clear Site Equipment | 1. Mr. Tim Woodall briefed Clear AFS was funding a study for putting a three-channel site on the installation. He stated if they go ahead and implement it utilizing the equipment removed from the Clear site that would still leave two available channels to transfer to the State. | |
| Upcoming Contracts and Funding | 2. Tim advised the contracts for the System Upgrade Assistance (SUA) II were coming up but currently there was inadequate funding between all parties to execute them. He stated the solution may be to let the contract slip; however, this would result in a price increase for any future contracts for the upgrades. Tim briefed one other consideration is to not do the SUA contracts and look at doing a capital investment in 3 - 5 years for the next upgrade and re-look at SUA II then. Pete stated at the EC meeting everyone had thought the SUA II was a great idea. Tim stated unfortunately, the process could not be started until all three partners had the funds in hand. They had discussed extending it for six months but once he looked at it, there was no benefit in doing so. Matt advised that at the Office of Management and Budget, there is currently no appetite for any significant expenditure at this time either. Tim advised in addition to the upgrade, the Quantars will need to be replaced and also some of the subscribers in the next five years at the cost of almost \$100M. He explained the XTS5000 will be non-supportable by 2019 with no parts available, so the DOD plans on replacing their inventory at 25 percent a year and utilizing them for spares until they break. | |



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| | <p>Matt advised part of the impetuous for not going forward to the Legislature at this time is currently the State has a couple acting commissioners, one being at DOA, and a relatively new commissioner at DOT. It would be hard for any of these new personnel to talk about ALMR with any conviction since they are unfamiliar with the System and the history.</p> <p>Del stated if the System moves to the 7.15 platform the cost of replacements for the Gold Elites also has to be addressed, since they will no longer work.</p> <p>Tim recommended to the UC that they have a discussion and make a recommendation to the EC with regard to which has the higher importance - equipment end of life or the SUA. He reiterated a capital investment would be appropriate in order to bring the System up the correct status in 2019.</p> <p>Max asked if the Quantars presented a security vulnerability.</p> <p>Tim stated after five iterations (software advances), Motorola® will no longer issue patches.</p> <p>Max stated the cycles for ALMR refresh and hardware replacements are much longer than the normal IT refreshes so this would be good to point out in budget discussions.</p> <p>Tim stated the Quantars have been in existence for 20 - 25 years already.</p> <p>Matt agreed that these types of facts are needed to help DOA make good arguments for funding requests.</p> | |
| Old Business | Discussion | Action Items Assigned |
| | There were no Old Business items. | |
| New Business | Discussion | Action Items Assigned |
| Section 331 - Intergovernmental Group Meeting | <p>1. Matt stated he had spent approximately 25 minutes speaking at the Section 331, Intergovernmental Group meeting. He stated they were previously misinformed but well intentioned. After that meeting he spoke with a State Legislator who had requested he do a presentation for the Communications Workgroup.</p> <p>Matt stated there were representatives from many areas including Eielson, Clear, Fort Wainwright, and Fairbanks North Star Borough in attendance at the presentation.</p> <p>David Gibbs stated the briefing and comments were appreciated and cleared up a lot of misconceptions.</p> | |



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| <p>Retirement</p> | <p>Matt briefed one particular issue he had to clear up was the removal of the equipment from the Clear site. He stated there were several agencies who had stated they were basically kicked off ALMR but after he explained the history they all had a better grasp of the situation and the current actions being taken to resolve the coverage issues.</p> <p>Matt also stated he was a little more forward in trying to educate the group regarding the upcoming funding issues.</p> <p>2. Matt asked Pete if this was his last meeting or if he would be attending in February.</p> <p>Pete stated he was retiring next month, so this was his last meeting.</p> <p>Matt congratulated him and thanked him for his service to the council.</p> | |
| <p>Next meeting</p> | <p>Discussion</p> | |
| | <p>Matt announced the next two regularly scheduled meetings were February 5 and March 5.</p> | |
| <p>Adjournment</p> | <p>Discussion</p> | |
| | <p>Matt asked the council members if there were any other items for discussion. Hearing none, he requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Adjourn the January User Council meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Pete Second: Ocie</p> <p>There were no objections. The motion passed.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.</p> | |