



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



MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council

April 16, 2020

FROM: SOA Co-Chair

SUBJECT: January 16 Meeting Minutes

TO: See Distribution

Executive Council Members Present:

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 (via teleconference)

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests Present:

Mr. John Rockwell	User Council Chair
Mr. Del Smith	ALMR Operations Manager
Mr. Scott Stormo	SOA ALMR Program Manager
Mr. Tim Woodall	DOD ALMR Program Manager
Mr. Trygve Erickson	Municipality of Anchorage/AWARN
Mr. Travis Conant	ALMR System Manager
Mr. Jason Beach	Municipality of Anchorage/AWARN
Mr. Jim Nichol	Motorola Solutions
Mr. Sean Kostelnik	Motorola Solutions
Mr. Mike Hawkins	Motorola Solutions
Mr. Joe Piksa	Motorola Solutions
Mr. Mark Neuman	Motorola Solutions
Mr. David Reed	Information Systems Security Manager
Ms. Sherry Shafer	Operations Management Office (via teleconference)

1. Call to Order. Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan, State of Alaska (SOA) Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:32 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 advised the group he would be leaving in a couple of months.

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 October 17, Executive Council meeting minutes, as written.

Hearing no requests for changes Deputy Commissioner Morgan made the motion and it was seconded by Colonel Maxwell. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

4. Old Business.

a. SOA Quantar Replacement. Deputy Commissioner Morgan stated there had been a lot of moving parts since the October meeting. He added the State of Alaska (SOA) Telecommunications System (SATS) and the Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) components were being discussed for a move from the Department of Administration (DOA) and over to the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs (DMVA). Deputy Commissioner Morgan explained there have been extensive discussions on whether that is a good idea and Commissioner Price expressed to the Chief of Staff (COS) that it is better, in the Department of Public Safety (DPS) opinion, for SATS and ALMR to remain under DOA rather than move to DMVA, but the absolute best location is under DPS. He advised they will probably have more to come.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan briefed in terms of funding for the GTRs, there have been significant discussions about where that sits and whether it's in the amended budget, either supplemental or Capital, but there has been no decisions that he is aware of yet, which is pretty normal for the State Budget process. He assured everyone that the Governor's office is aware of the operational risk of not funding this, and he has another meeting next week with the COS to go over this issue again, but they feel they are making headway with the powers that be.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan noted the security upgrades are an important issue and Lieutenant General Bussiere's letter was important in stating that the Department of Defense (DOD) is not playing around, the message has been received and he remains optimistic. He asked is anyone else had anything to add.

Mr. Timothy Woodall asked if there was going to be a response to Lt Gen Bussiere's letter.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan responded he believed that is why he has a meeting with the COS next week and Lt Gen Bussiere will be getting a response.

b. State Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB). Deputy Commissioner Morgan advised there had some discussions with the Governor's office on putting this in a statute, but the Governor wanted the committee seated first before that was looked at. He added they would wait and see what comes up in the session, which starts next week and, in addition, tomorrow the next round of Legislative bills comes out.

c. Long-term Cost Share Solution. Deputy Commissioner Morgan advised from the SOA perspective it's a State and local issue where a cost sharing component is necessary and we will be moving forward with that

d. Operations Management Office (OMO) Contract. Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked Mr. John Rockwell is he had anything and Mr. Rockwell stated the only update he had was the request for proposal (RFP) had been put in to the review board.

Mr Stormo stated the RFP was going to the Commissioner for approval to proceed.

Mr. Rockwell advised once the RFP is through that process, they will get it out on the street fairly soon. He added they anticipate getting it out in the first quarter and they are also hoping for a graceful turnover with the current OMO, but there is always the issue of how do you fund a new program when you are still funding the existing program.

5. User Council Update.

a. Vacant Positions. Mr. Rockwell briefed there were still two vacant positions, the alternate Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the other was the alternate Federal Non-DOD BLM position.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan stated he would like to have Captain Rick Roberts considered for the alternate DPS position.

Mr. Del Smith noted he would be happy to do a teleconference with ASAC Adam Pierce and the Department of the Interior office to ensure they finally get someone appointed.

b. Annual Elections. Mr. Rockwell advised the council members he had been re-elected and will remain in the Chair position and Mr. Nate Skinner had been re-elected to the Vice Chair position.

6. Operations Management Office.

a. USARAK Battery Plant Rectifier Issues. Mr. Smith advised the council the work is supposed to start on January 21 and the kickoff meeting had been held on January 15. He added the plan is for there to be no service interruption during the work. Mr. Smith added this is the first of several planned power upgrades according to USARAK.

b. 7.17.3 Upgrade. Mr. Del Smith stated as far as he knows the State has not given Motorola the final close out actions at this time, because there are still some MotoBridge funding issues to be resolved. They are going to be discussing the JBER WAVE in the next week or two.

c. Zone 2 Outage. Mr. Smith briefed the outage occurred on October 23 and initially it was escalated to the Motorola Product Group, who confirmed it was caused by the virtual management server (VMS) lockup and it could have been the direct access storage (DAS). He added it has been further escalated to the Development Team for further root cause and analysis as briefed at the User Council (UC).

Mr. Rockwell reiterated we don't know why it happened so we don't know if it's going to happen again.

Mr. Mike Hawkins stated Motorola was still working on the root cause analysis and in the meantime they were looking for a solution for risk mitigation in the future.

d. December System Metrics. Mr. Smith briefed there were 1,065,188 group calls, 1,938,550 PTTs and 508 busies in December, calls were up slightly by around 50k.

e. OMO Annual Reports. Mr. Smith advised the council there were three reports - the OMO 2019 Annual Information Assurance Audit Report of Findings, the User Council 2019 Annual Assessment on System Operations and Management Performance and the 2019 Business Case. He stated all three reports would be sent to the council via email after the meeting for their review and approval and/or acceptance.

f. Department of Defense (DOD) Microwave Hops. Mr. Smith briefed the issue has come up because the SOA is in the process of upgrading their 55 microwave hops with Aviat. He added currently the Ft Greely to Delta, Quarry to Birch Hill and R1-North to Alcantra are all Harris Constellation and the Koby to Clear hop is Aurora and all of these will not be able to be used in the next iteration of the Motorola software and need to be replaced. Mr. Smith advised that during the discussion at the UC meeting, the SMO agreed to work with the DOD to help them figure out what they need and the SOA also offered to supply the information on the Aviat equipment. He stated it is not funded but needs to be moved up the chain.

Mr. Woodall noted Mr. Conant had provided him the information and he had forwarded it to the infrastructure owners so they are aware of it and can pursue funds. He added that based on the cost figure, they are looking for those funds, but at this point it is considered an unfunded requirement. Mr. Woodall advised he had also pushed it up to the services to the major commands to consider adding the funding in with the funding for the next upgrade should they not get an unfunded requirement.

Mr. Woodall added in addition to this, there is a lot of other equipment that he and Mr. Stormo have had conversations on that need to be identified in a different fashion. He noted we have the Service Level Agreement (SLA) that defines the standard agencies are supposed to keep their sites at, a five nines rating, and in some cases agencies

haven't done that but he thinks it's a matter of the agencies not understanding what comprises the System and the understanding the misconception that some equipment falls under the SOA contact, and it does not. Mr. Woodall briefed they are meeting to clarify that and provide them with an understanding of their responsibilities.

g. Isolators. Mr. Smith stated on that very issue, the isolators at Harding Lake, Money Knob, Peger Road, Quarry Hill and Reindeer Hills all need attention. He noted all but Quarry Hill are SOA sites. Mr. Smith briefed the isolators are getting out of tolerance and some of them can be tuned, but some will need replaced. He added most of that equipment is 15 – 17 years old.

h. Harris Acceptance Test. Mr. Smith advised the Harris XL185 single band and XL200 multiband were scheduled for testing in December but the vendor cancelled due to the uncertainty on whether they could pass one of the function tests. He added he had not heard back from them on a possible return date.

Mr. Rockwell stated Harris brought the issue up to the programming team and it will not be in any of the existing radios but they hope in the near future they will be able to program the radios where they will be able to pass that requirement. He noted Harris is not asking ALMR to waive the requirement at this point. Mr. Rockwell advised he felt they are not mature enough to operate in our environment at this time and was disappointed because of the price point as they are looking at replacement of old radios, but have also looked at other radios and did some strong comparisons of radios, batteries and chargers and even though it started as a single vendor offer, it allowed us to look at all the players.

Mr. Smith noted the Army National Guard contacted him recently and had 150 XL200 radios and asked if they could put them on the System and he had replied "no." He added it had also happened a couple years ago with XL100s sent to the Air National Guard.

Mr. Woodall noted those types of purchases are done at the National Guard Bureau without regard to the areas where they are sending them.

Colonel Maxwell asked how long had the XL100's been on the System and Mr. Smith stated the 100s never passed and therefore had never been on the System and Harris had only recently asked for testing for the XL185. Mr. Smith added the 25 and 75 models are approved on the System, as well as the PRC152A.

i. RMF Status. My Smith deferred to Mr. David Reed to provide this update and added there was an additional concern regarding a notice received from Microsoft®.

Mr. Reed briefed the package was completed in December and had passed the first review. He noted it was awaiting the final review and approval.

Mr. Reed stated he had received a notification from Motorola Solutions from the National Security Agency (NSA) regarding the trust system built in to the patches and that they

will be loaded and the systems will be rebooted as required. This has been an issue over time and we will be contacting agencies starting tomorrow to ensure they are rebooting their equipment.

Mr. Smith noted this has been an issue in the past and we have cajoled them over the months but all agencies are obligated via the membership to follow the rules of the System. He added he didn't want to start sending out a bunch of letters threatening to remove them from the System but he doesn't seem to get any reaction unless he takes that kind of action. Mr. Smith advised there are some agencies as far back as July that have not rebooted their equipment and he doesn't see what the problem is. He briefed the consoles can be rebooted remotely, but that is not necessarily a good idea.

Mr. Rockwell stated Mr. Smith had brought this up to the UC as well, and they discussed what they could do and the consensus was to try more user education first.

Mr. Reed advised he could put together a slide of offenders for the next meeting.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan stated he would like to see the list and perhaps they would consider a directive from the Executive Council.

7. New Business.

a. New Incident Command Zones. Mr. Rockwell reminded the group the UC Codeplug and Talkgroup Subcommittee asked for permission to consolidate the zones, and they have also come up with a methodology to work them into existing resources, so we don't have to have a hard stop to switch over. He added they have cleaned it up and sent it out to many of the key users for ratification and the plan is to start reprogramming the radios and try to within the next year complete the reprogramming. Mr. Rockwell stated they also have volunteers willing to assist other agencies who may not have the resources to pay for getting their radios done.

Mr. Woodall mentioned they have received new APX radios and have XTS5000 radios that can be passed out while other radios are brought in for programming. He added the DMVA has about 200 radios in the basement that could be handed out and possibly the DOD could supply some loaners, as well.

b. System Lifecycle and Upgrade Issues. Mr. Mike Hawkins, Motorola Solutions, gave a presentation on the critical timelines and potential courses of action for the current support for 7.17 through November 23, 2020 when security monitoring in the vetting lab will end and also entailed the cancellation of Quantar support at the end of 2020. Any continued security monitoring support would be contingent upon an accepted upgrade schedule for the next software iteration.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan emphasized the bigger issue is the relationship with DOD and their inability to operate on a System that is non-compliant.

Mr. Hawkins briefed June 2020 is the decision point where Motorola would begin to look at pulling the System apart and providing the DOD with a much more detailed separation plan and spectrum deconstruction and coverage issue, along with fleetmapping and loss of network backhaul.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan emphasized that the SOA has to have the full amount of funding otherwise they put at risk everything.

Mr. Woodall reiterated the DOD cannot operate on a System that is not cyber compliant, they could do an interim ATO for a period of time, but at some point they would have to shut the System down.

Mr. Reed advised if they will lose security patching in November regardless of whether the funding is there or not, DOD cannot remain.

Mr. Woodall asked if there are any courses of action beyond the worst scenario, and could the DOD pay to keep the test system operational for a period of time.

Mr. Hawkins stated the sustainment costs would probably increase around 30 percent but there's an exception process that has to take place.

Mr. Rockwell briefed even if the funding was fully approved, they probably wouldn't get the money until June and couldn't get started with the Quantar replacements until around September, and there is no way they could be completed by November 23.

Mr. Jim Nichol clarified this is where Motorola would go for the exception process and an extension of the security services, but there has to be a clear plan in place for the next upgrade to take place for this all to work; that's why we put that June decision point in there.

8. Next Meeting. Deputy Commissioner Morgan briefed the next meeting is was scheduled for April 16, 2020, and asked if anyone had any conflicts. There were no responses.

9. Adjourn Meeting. There was no further discussion and Deputy Commissioner Morgan made the motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by ASAC Pierce. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.



Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan
Department of Public Safety
ALMR Executive Council

Distribution:

SOA/DPS, Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan
USNORTHCOM ALCOM J6, Colonel Timothy Maxwell
FBI, ASAC Adam Pierce
MOA, Captain Julie Shank
AML, Mr. David Gibbs
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
SOA DOA, Mr. Randy Kilbourne