



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



MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council

October 17, 2019

FROM: DOD Co-Chair

SUBJECT: July 18 Meeting Minutes

TO: See Distribution

Executive Council Members Present:

Deputy Commissioner Michael Duxbury

Colonel Timothy Maxwell

Mr. David Gibbs

Capt Julie Shank

State of Alaska – Department of
Public Safety

Department of Defense – ALCOM/J6

Alaska Municipal League – Fairbanks North
Star Borough (via teleconference)

Municipality of Anchorage (via
teleconference)

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests Present:

Mr. John Rockwell

Mr. Del Smith

Mr. Scott Stormo

Mr. Tim Woodall

Mr. Trygve Erickson

Mr. Chris White

Mr. Nate Skinner

Mr. Jim Nicholl

Mr. Sean Kostelnik

Mr. David Reed

Mr. Bill “William” Doolittle

Mr. Bruce Richter

Ms. Sherry Shafer

User Council Chair

Operations Manager

SOA ALMR Program Manager

DOD ALMR Program Manager

Municipality of Anchorage/AWARN

SOA DOA

User Council Vice Chair/SOA DOF

Motorola Solutions

Motorola Solutions

Information Systems Security Manager

Department of Public Safety

OEC Region X

Operations Management Office (via
teleconference)

1. Call to Order. Deputy Commissioner Michael Duxbury, State of Alaska (SOA) Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Roll call was read.

2. Opening Statements and Other Announcements.

Deputy Commissioner Duxbury announced he would be taking an international security job in another location. He added he would be officially gone on the 30th and Mr. Leon Morgan would be the new Deputy Commissioner, and he was more than qualified due to his involvement with public safety interoperability programs.

Deputy Commissioner Duxbury stated it should be a smooth transition and he appreciated the efforts on everyone's part and it has done us some good because they have been able to put forth a supplemental budget request for ALMR. He also noted that he had a face-to-face conversation with the Chief of Staff to the Governor, Mr. Babcock, and he had performed a demonstration using only a cell phone for a public safety issue needing to coordinate with multiple agencies and personnel versus utilizing an ALMR radio, the message was loud and clear and he got it; he also mentioned that unlike other major systems, updated hardware and software was needed to keep the system functional and equated it to an iPhone, where if you had anything less than an iPhone 6, they couldn't push out an update.

Deputy Commissioner Duxbury advised as a result of Attorney General Barr's trip up here, there was a lot of money floating around and being thrown at stuff without asking questions; this has also produced a lot of other Federal-level departments coming up here, just last week one was the Under Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was in their SCIF who asked what could he do for us. Deputy Commissioner Duxbury noted his first response was "ALMR" and his COS took all the bullet points he'd been handing out. He added that Senator Sullivan has also requested a briefing on ALMR and how it connects to the Arctic, which is another avenue to get it going.

Colonel Timothy Maxwell thanked Deputy Commissioner Duxbury on behalf of the Department of Defense (DOD) for all his support for ALMR.

Mr. John Rockwell stated on behalf of the user group perspective, he wanted to say how much they appreciate that Deputy Commissioner came in running and hasn't stopped. He also personally thanked the Deputy Commissioner for his support.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes. Deputy Commissioner Duxbury asked the other council member if they had reviewed the April meeting minutes and had any changes.

Mr. Timothy Woodall asked Mr. David Reed to clarify on page 4 that it was him that had made the statement in question and Mr. Reed verified it was him.

Deputy Commissioner Duxbury asked for a motion of approval.

Motion: Approve the April 18, Executive Council meeting minutes, as written.

The motion was made by Colonel Timothy Maxwell and seconded by Deputy Commissioner Duxbury. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

4. Old Business.

a. SOA Quantar Replacement/Separation Study. Deputy Commissioner Duxbury asked if there were any updates.

Mr. Woodall stated Motorola had provided the revised cost figures but had not provided a copy of the study.

Mr. Jim Nicholl advised he had given Mr. Stormo one version with the figures but would work with Mr. Sean Kostelnik to ensure they had it completed before the next meeting.

Deputy Commissioner Duxbury asked if there was anything different on the status of the Quantars and Mr. Scott Stormo stated once there is money available, the real work starts with Motorola.

b. State Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB). Mr. Rockwell briefed there were no updates since the last meeting. He added Mr. Morgan would replace Deputy Commissioner Duxbury on the committee.

c. Long-term Cost Share Solution. Mr. Del Smith briefed there had been a meeting with the Federal agencies and last year's cost scenario was discussed. He noted it was modified for FY20, and was much closer to a fair level of contribution.

Deputy Commissioner Duxbury asked if he needed to do any follow up regarding the Office of Information Technology (OIT) ability to collect the funds directly.

Mr. Stormo responded the invoices had been sent out to the Federal agencies and OIT now has receipt authority.

Deputy Commissioner Duxbury asked if there had been any further exploration into the possibility of surcharges as a means of collecting funds.

Mr. Rockwell stated there was nothing new to add and he had not been working too much on that during the last quarter. He added when the SIGB starts to work through some of the issues this will come back up for discussion, but had no recommendations for the Governor's office at this point

Mr. Smith briefed when he had met with Mr. Babcock, he had taken the opportunity to make some suggestions regarding revenue generation and if everyone who benefits from public safety contributes, it makes more sense. He added that he had suggested he work with the Governor to try to meet with the General and the Mayor as this is a different group of people since the renewal of ALMR marriage vows a couple years ago.

Mr. Smith noted that after he had met with the Governor's Chief of Staff, about a week later he received a call from the Chief of Staff's Executive Assistant asking him to look into finding a much cheaper version than ALMR. He responded there is no alternate that provides the level of interoperability and steered him to the multiple studies posted on the web site.

Deputy Commissioner Duxbury stated he had the opportunity to address the proposed supplemental budget and he was questioned by Mr. Robert Kowalski, who approached it like a counselor cross examining me. He noted it was interesting because Mr. Kowalski already knew all the answers, but wanted to see where Deputy Commissioner Duxbury would go with the answers. Deputy Commissioner Duxbury added is very encouraging because they realize there is no other way to do it. He added that Mr. Babcock was advised it would cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$365M to replace ALMR. Deputy Commissioner Duxbury briefed the information is starting to trickle out there, but we are trying to educate a whole new group of people.

Mr. Smith advised he had invited the Governor's executive assistant to come out and see the operations at Tudor Road.

Mr. Rockwell added he and Deputy Commissioner Duxbury had a conversation with Mr. Joe Piksa from Motorola on how to educate the new legislators, the new commissioners and the new leaders we have today and they were brainstorming that as one of their tasks.

Deputy Commissioner Duxbury stated if you look at the current list of Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and Division Directors that haven't come up from the ranks using that radio, we have no one to advocate for us. He added if we can get them all in a room and get them to understand why it's so important to their people, then we'd eventually have an exponential number of people who could advocate on our behalf, because right now ALMR is just something they use and it's no different than a walkie-talkie they use in the jail.

Mr. Rockwell stated he wanted to mention that Mr. Nate Skinner is doing exactly that with the Department of Natural Resources Commissioner and asked Mr. Skinner to elaborate on it.

Mr. Skinner stated they were taking her around the Shovel Creek Fire in Fairbanks and had explained to her how important the radio is to them and she understands why we need it.

Colonel Maxwell added they also have a new Chief of Staff and he knows about ALMR, but he doesn't understand the things we go through.

d. Letter to the Governor. Deputy Commissioner Duxbury stated we have touched it in a couple different ways, but asked Mr. Rockwell if he had anything else to add.

Mr. Rockwell stated the letter was great and it had opened up another ability within the administration to get the information out there. He added when they talked to Ms. Kelly Tshibaka at the Department of Administration (DOA), and she had thrown out several different technologies that are out there. Mr. Rockwell stated had he pointed out to her, the State had several studies done and they had put out Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and no one could meet them, so the technology isn't there today. **(CLOSED)**

5. User Council Update.

Vacant Council Positions. Mr. Rockwell briefed there were two vacant positions with the Department of Defense (DOD).

Colonel Maxwell asked which positions they were and Mr. Rockwell advised both the primary and alternate Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson positions were now vacant and although individuals had been identified, no appointment letter had been received.

Colonel Maxwell stated he had an upcoming meeting with the Communications Squadron Commander and would check into it.

Mr. Rockwell advised they would also need a replacement for Mr. Morgan on the council, as he was the Department of Public Safety alternate.

6. Operations Management Office.

a. 7.17.3 Upgrade. Mr. Del Smith stated they were currently replacing switches at sites and had ten high sites left to complete over the next two weeks. He added he had asked agencies to let us know if they were having any issues. Mr. Smith briefed the Quantar replacements at six DOD sites were also in progress and should be completed today. He noted there is some kind of an issue at Clear and Mr. Travis Conant was there today working on resolving it. Mr. Smith stated once these Quantar replacements are completed, the State sites will be the only ones with Quantars left.

b. Birch Hill Master Site. Mr. Smith briefed the Army Department of Public Works (DPW) had agreed to do the work then stated they wouldn't. He added when he had talked to Mr. Rick Williams last week, he was advised they were now looking for a "vehicle," which he believes means a contractor. Mr. Smith stated USARAK was exploring talks with Bering Straits Information Technology (BSIT) to do the work. He also noted the Army had found two rectifiers on EBay™ that would be available for backup at Birch Hill.

Mr. Smith added that the Black Rapids, Donnelly Dome and Fort Greely sites are all experiencing issues.

Colonel Maxwell asked if he need to talk to the Army about the master site.

Mr. Smith stated it would be helpful to the extent he could express the importance of this site, although all the sites are important. He added he gets the feeling the Army seems to focus on the fact they own the sites but not that they are part of the ALMR partnership.

Mr. Stormo briefed he was not sure who, if anyone, is doing preventative maintenance on the DOD sites.

c. Subscriber Annual Inventory. Mr. Smith briefed the inventory was completed on July 3.

d. FY20 Membership Agreements. Mr. Smith advised all 124 FY20 agreements had been distributed in May and 122 had been signed and returned. He noted the two remaining agreements were Federal Non-DOD agreements and awaiting ASAC Pierce to sign upon return from his vacation on July 22. Mr. Smith stated two agencies, Kodiak PD and the City of Ketchikan, were exploring becoming members. He stated he was concerned about Ketchikan and the limited capacity and had talked to them about looking for grant money to help with adding capacity.

Deputy Commissioner Duxbury stated the Police Chief Joe White was a little bit more forward leaning.

Mr. Rockwell asked if it was the bandwidth or if it was the capacity and Mr. Smith stated it was capacity, because there was only a three-channel site there.

Mr. Stormo stated the voice channels don't use much bandwidth.

Mr. Woodall asked if they had sufficient coverage with the one site and Mr. Stormo stated there was that and Sunny Hay site and he'd never heard the Troopers say they didn't have good coverage.

Mr. Woodall advised they had about 20 channels of Quantars which were going to be sent to the Defense Reutilization Management Office (DRMO). He added if they coordinated it properly and had their paperwork ready, they may be able to get some but a not a lot of people would be trying to obtain them. Mr. Woodall added the combiners would allow an increased capacity but they would have to be retuned with new frequencies.

Mr. Stormo stated the State actually has a couple of spare Quantars, as well.

e. Letter to the Governor. Mr. Smith stated this was already covered under Old Business and no further discussion was needed.

f. June System Metrics. Mr. Smith briefed the group calls went up from 1,222,634 to 1,235,887, which was up about 13 thousand, there were 2,310,993 push to talks, which was up around 23 thousand and busies were up by around a thousand due to the usual suspects – Nenana, the range and Hill 3265, as well as the upgrade work which

caused a lot of interruptions. He stated he didn't see anything to be particularly concerned about.

Mr. Smith stated at the August User Council meeting he would be providing the updated list of the top five sites where capacity is need and Nenana will be one of them.

Mr. Rockwell stated the location of the tower also was in shadowing from a hill so he also wanted to look at possible relocation of the tower. He asked Mr. Stormo to address the current issue at Money Knob.

Mr. Stormo stated one of the fires had burnt through the power line at Money Knob and it was currently running on generator, being refueled every two days right now. He added they looked at the line yesterday and they would have to replace two thirds minimum so they were looking at a complete tear out. Mr. Stormo briefed they were getting quotes on replacement of the line and figure out if it is in the budget to get it completed or if they'd have to beef up the generator. He also stated it was worth having the conversation before they spent a lot of money whether the site was still needed, and the initial word from the Department of Transportation (DOT) was it wasn't heavily used, but it isn't just DOT that uses it.

Mr. Smith provided the last three months of usage, but it doesn't seem to get a lot of usage. He did note the site was there in case it was needed.

Mr. Skinner noted the Bureau of Land Management depended on it during the Tetlin Fire.

Mr. Stormo stated that was also his concern is there are no other sites in the area, Money Knob is kind of out there by itself and if it's removed there would be no ALMR coverage at all in that area.

7. New Business.

FY21 OMO/SMO Budget. Mr. Smith stated the FY21 OMO/SMO Budget is ready for the Executive Council to review. He added it would be emailed after the meeting for the council to vote on its approval. Mr. Smith went over the budget and explained what the cost figures covered. He also briefed the different annual conferences he pays to attend and emphasized the connections he is able to make, as well as noting the future cost projections at the addendum.

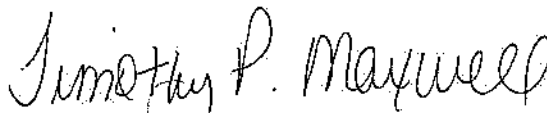
Mr. Smith also noted the Operations Management Office (OMO) contract had been extended for one year and the System Management Office (SMO) was in their third option year.

Mr. Rockwell stated Mr. Stormo had created the RFP for the new OMO contract and he had reviewed it and they were looking at sending it out at the end of the year.

8. **Next Meeting.** Deputy Commissioner Duxbury briefed the next meeting is was scheduled for October 17.

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.



Timothy Maxwell, Colonel, USAF
USNORTHCOM ALCOM J6
ALMR Executive Council

Distribution:

USNORTHCOM ALCOM J6, Colonel Timothy Maxwell
SOA/DPS, Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan
FBI, ASAC Adam Pierce
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
SOA DOA, Mr. Randy Kilbourne