



A FEDERAL, STATE AND MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP

Alaska Land Mobile Radio

*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: September 4, 2013

1. Attendance Roster.

User Council Members and Alternates

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

T	Adams	Ocie	Mr.	SOA DOT&PF
T	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
T	Johnson	Brad	Chief	Municipalities Northern , Fairbanks PD
P	Leveque	Matt	MAJ	SOA DPS, AST, Chair
T	Martin	Chris	Mr.	DOD USAF, Eielson AFB
E	Murphy	Peter	Mr.	Fed Non-DOD, FBI, Vice Chair
T	Mitchell	William	Mr.	DOD USAF, JBER
U	Sell	Kris	Lt	Municipalities Southeast, Juneau PD
T	Williams	Rick	GS-12	DOD US Army Alaska
	VACANT			Fed Non-DOD, US Forest Service

Alternate

U	Arasz	Paul	Mr.	Fed Non-DOD, FBI
T	Flowers	Alvin	Mr.	Fed Non-DOD, TSA
N/A	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	Rollins	Kermit	TSgt	DOD USAF, JBER
U	Leggett	Ray	Chief	Municipalities Southeast, Skagway PD
E	Lewis	Mike	Mr.	Fed Non-DOD, US Fish & Wildlife Service
N/A	Patz	Greg	Mr.	SOA DOT
	VACANT			SOA All Others
	VACANT			DOD US Army
	VACANT			SOA DPS, AST

Other Attendees

P	Borg	Casey	Mr.	System Manager
P	Eubank	Greg	Mr.	DMVA
P	McGrath	Max	Mr.	SOA ETS Program Manager
T	Kindelberger	Ron	Mr.	59th Signal Battalion (Army NETCOM)
P	Kohler	Jim	Mr.	SOA Special Telecommunications Projects
P	Richter	Bruce	Mr.	Region 10 DHS Rep
T	Shafer	Sherry	Ms.	Operations Document Specialist
P	Smith	Del	Mr.	Operations Manager
T	White	Sharon	Ms.	SOA ETS
T	Wiggins	Scott	Mr.	DHS Contract Support



2. Meeting Minutes and Action Items.

Agenda Item / Topic	Discussion	Action Items
Called 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.	
Previous Meeting Minutes Approval	<p>The minutes from the August 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 August 7, 2013 meeting minutes, as written.</p> <p>Motion: Deputy Chief Brad Johnson Second: Mr. Ocie Adams</p> <p>There were no objections. The motion passed.</p>	
Review of I&R Log	Active Issues	
	<p>Item #57 – This item remains open due to the fact the Fed Non-DOD All Others primary, DPS alternate, SOA-All Others alternate, and DOD US Army alternate positions are all vacant.</p> <p>NOTE: Mr. Chris Lampshire had been nominated by AFEA to fill the primary Federal Non-DOD All Others position and Mr. Paul Kain has been nominated as an additional alternate. The motion for their approval will be presented at the September 19 Executive Council meeting.</p>	
	Pending Issues	
	There were no pending issues.	
	Issues Closed at, or since, last meeting	
	There were no issues closed.	
Review of Action Items from Previous Meeting	<p>There were was one Action Item from the August meeting, which is closed</p> <p>OMO to distribute email regarding Motorola™ meeting on leveraging land mobile radio systems with Firstnet/LTE. (CLOSED, Aug 7)</p>	
Operations Management Office (OMO) Update	Mr. Del Smith, Operations Manager	Action Items Assigned
7.13 Migration Update	1. Mr. Del Smith briefed the council on the outstanding punch list items to be completed by Motorola for the State of Alaska (SOA), the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA).	
Clear AFS Membership Agreement	2. Del advised the council the recommendation was carried forward from the August meeting to remove the radios from	



<p>Clear Site Equipment</p> <p>EF Johnson Viking Subscriber Acceptance Test Procedure (ATP)</p> <p>Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO)</p> <p>Document Reviews</p> <p>August Metrics</p>	<p>the System with 30 days notice, but Colonel Scott Moser, DOD Executive Council (EC) Co-Chair, had requested one more opportunity to talk to Clear leadership and try to obtain a signed agreement. He advised the status of that effort would be briefed at the September 19 EC meeting.</p> <p>3. Del advised the council the equipment removed from the Clear site was in the possession of the System Management Office (SMO) and would be upgraded. The end plan was to transfer it to SOA. He reminded the council the Nenana site was slated to get two additional channels and he stated the council still needed to determine the recommended sites where the other three channels would best serve the needs of the System users.</p> <p>4. Del briefed the council that members from EF Johnson would be in state approximately September 23 to ATP their new Viking radio.</p> <p>5. Del advised the council he had attended along with several other folks from Alaska. He stated long-term evolution (LTE) and FirstNet was still a main topic of discussion and the build out would be happening for a long time. He stressed that the message was LTE would be a compliment to land mobile radio (LMR) not replace it.</p> <p>6. Del briefed the council the Talkgroup Development Policy and Procedure had finally been approved, although it was almost a month beyond the original suspense date.</p> <p>7. Del stated there was a slight drop in voice calls that could be attributed to the fall off of wildland fires, and this was also the normal pattern for this time of year. He advised the System busies had dropped almost 50 percent, as well.</p>	
<p>System Management Office (SMO) Update</p>	<p>Mr. Casey Borg, System Manager</p>	<p>Action Items Assigned</p>
<p>Transportable Area South (TAS) Deployment</p> <p>Transmission/Reception Issues</p>	<p>1. Mr. Casey Borg briefed the council the TAS had been deployed to Valdez August 19 - 23 as a precursor to next March's exercise. He stated the site had provided phones and internet services at the Civic Center, as well as the venue to test the coverage area.</p> <p>2. Casey stated during the upgrade there had been several instances where dispatch could not hear transmissions from the field and also some individuals in the field were unable to hear dispatch. He advised since the completion of the upgrade, he had not heard of further occurrences but if the council members heard anything regarding these types of issues to please have the individual or agency contact the Help Desk.</p>	



DOD Update	Mr. Tim Woodall, ALMR DOD Representative	Action Items Assigned
	Mr. Tim Woodall was not in attendance; therefore no DOD update was provided.	
SOA Update	Mr. Jim Kohler/Mr. Max McGrath, SOA	Action Items Assigned
<p>Motorola™ Lifecycle Presentation</p> <p>Migration Lessons Learned</p> <p>Transportable Access</p>	<p>1. Mr. Max McGrath stated he had also attended the Motorola™ lifecycle presentation, which looked at how the three entities would move forward under SUA II</p> <p>2. Max advised the council, SOA was preparing a lessons learned document from the 7.13 migration and would publish a report.</p> <p>Max stated his biggest challenge at the moment was learning his new job but he was working diligently to get up to speed.</p> <p>3. Mr. Jim Kohler requested that Matt spend a few minutes regarding the frustration on accessing the transportable systems that he had discussed at the EC meeting.</p> <p>Matt briefed the council he had expressed his frustration to the EC at the inability to communicate on the edge of ALMR when we have these systems just sitting there and not being utilized. He discussed the recent Stuart Creek fire as a prime example.</p> <p>Matt stated during the discussion both Colonel Moser and Mr. Tim Woodall thought a memorandum of agreement could be executed with the State allowing use of the transportable without having to obtain Assistant Secretary of Defense Homeland Defense approval. He advised it would not be inexpensive to deploy but if it could possibly be utilized in non-declared disasters, it would be a valuable asset.</p> <p>Mr. Greg Eubank stated the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs (DMVA) had communications trailers that they were able to deploy in a matter of minutes.</p> <p>Del asked if the trailers could operate like the transportable as a stand-alone site and provide reach back to the ALMR System.</p> <p>Greg advised they had utilized the trailers in six deployments for rapid communications capability and they had been very useful. He stated the biggest flexibility the trailers offered was the ability to establish an interim command post in 45 minutes. Greg briefed they had used the trailers for internet and phones during the Delta area</p>	



	fires along the Steese Highway. He advised they had a satellite uplink but reach back to ALMR was not available.	
Old Business		
	There were no Old Business items.	
New Business		Action Items Assigned
Wireless Communications Conference	1. Ocie advised the council he had recently attended the Wireless Communications Conference in California, where 40 of the 50 states had been represented. He stated the other states had confirmed their narrowband conversion had been just as painful a process for them as it had been for Alaska.	
State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP)	2. Matt reminded the council he was the designated point of contact for the SLIGP. He briefed the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) had recently announced a \$2 million award to the State of Alaska and the Governor's office was reviewing stipulations regarding acceptance of the grant. Matt advised he expected the review to be completed within the next week, and if the grant was approved by the Governor and returned to the Department of Commerce, the State could begin utilizing the funds. He stated he was excited to see what might develop in the future.	
Statewide Interoperability Communications Plan (SCIP)	3. Matt advised the group there was a SCIP update workshop scheduled for Oct 25 - 26 in Anchorage. Part of the update would be to reflect the FirstNet component in the plan.	
Clear Area Coverage	4. Matt stated a Legislative Representative had contacted him regarding the coverage in the area of Clear AFS and that it had went to heck when the site was turned off. Matt advised the Representative of the extensive coverage testing that had been conducted by AST, DOT and members of the ALMR staff. He briefed he was advised the National Guard Security Forces were the source but he thought the original message from them might have been misconstrued. Matt advised he would be personally meeting with the Representative in Fairbanks later in the month and brief him on the ALMR System.	
Anderson Emergency Services	5. Del briefed the council he had received an email today from the Anderson Fire Chief complaining about the coverage in the area, as well. The Chief had stated in the email they were being dispatched out of the University of Alaska-Fairbanks Fire Department and due to the poor coverage there were delays in getting emergency medical assistance in one incident and fire response assistance in another. The Chief had requested help from several sources, including the Denali Borough, in resolving the	



	<p>issue. Del briefed the coverage in the area was still good but possibly not as good as it had been when the Clear site was operational. He also stated some of the issues were not ALMR related. Del advised the council that Mr. Casey Borg, System Manager, would be following up with Chief Thompson and look at the instances to ensure there wasn't a System problem.</p>	
<p>Motorola™ Subscriber Unit End of Life</p>	<p>6. Del advised the council the Motorola™ XTS and XTL5000 subscriber units would not be manufactured after November 30, 2013, and would no longer be supported after 2018. He briefed the group there would be an article in the October edition of the <i>Insider</i> newsletter with more details.</p>	
<p>State-funded ALMR Training</p>	<p>7. Del briefed the council the training coordinator, Mr. Joe Quickel, had been meeting with agencies on the Kenai Peninsula reference their training needs, thanks to Mr. Jim Kohler and the State of Alaska who had once again funded ALMR training. He encouraged members to take advantage of the training while it was available</p> <p>Del also advised the council local agencies are continuing to stress they will not pay to be on the ALMR System if the State of Alaska decides to charge for being a member.</p>	
<p>Motorola™ Trunked Users Group (MTUG)</p>	<p>8. Mr. Greg Eubank requested permission of the Chair to address the council and it was granted. Greg asked the council to gauge whether there was interest in re-activating the MTUG. He advised a lot of the users he had contact with were interested in keeping in touch with Motorola™ on those technical issues they experience that are similar among the agencies.</p> <p>Matt stated this group is not just about trouble mitigation but it also addresses what the end user would like to see in future technologies.</p>	
<p>Regional Emergency Communications Working Group (RECWG)</p>	<p>9. Matt advised the group he would be attending the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region X RECWG on Tuesday next week to maintain situational awareness of on-going exercise development plans.</p>	
<p>Enterprise Technology Services (ETS)</p>	<p>10. Max stated the new ETS Director, Mr. Jim Bates, has a keen interest in ALMR and would be driving up the Parks Highway in the coming week and stopping at ALMR/SATS sites along the way.</p> <p>Matt emphasized Director Bates was trying hard to get the State government and users to look at ALMR and SATS from an enterprise perspective, rather than separate</p>	



	programs.	
Next meeting		
	Matt announced the next two regularly scheduled meetings were October 2 and November 6.	
Adjourn		
	<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 September User Council meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Brad Second: Ocie</p> <p>There were no objections. The motion passed.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.</p>	