

Talking Points

Alaska Interoperable Communications

Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR)



Hope



Ski Hill

From the Commissioner, Dept. of Military & Veterans Affairs

The ALMR system is well on its way to completion, fulfilling Governor Frank H. Murkowski's vision of state-wide interoperable communications for first responders. The ALMR system is demonstrating, on a daily basis, with its 8,000 current users that it provides real-time, on-demand, secure communications. This is precisely the kind of communications necessary to respond to inter-agency, multi-jurisdictional events.

ALMR is a shared system both operationally and financially. To date, the federal government, through appropriations to Department of Defense, has committed more than \$65 million to ALMR infrastructure costs. Another \$13.8 million has been committed through federal grants.

Total federal contributions to date, are more than \$71.3 million. The State of Alaska has expended \$17.9 million on the ALMR system.



Major General
Craig E. Campbell

During 2006, 32 additional sites will be built on the Kenai Peninsula and southeast Alaska. On the peninsula, these sites will provide communications for both the community and rural areas of the Kenai Peninsula as well as coverage for the principal communities on Kodiak Island.

In southeast Alaska, the ALMR system will provide communications for agencies and jurisdictions surrounding:

- Haines—Skagway
- Wrangell—Petersburg
- Juneau—Sitka
- Ketchikan

The \$10 million dollars to complete the ALMR infrastructure build out will come from \$7.5 in federal grant funds and the \$2.5 million currently requested from the Alaska State Legislature.

The transition of the Alaska State Troopers onto the ALMR system will begin in the Interior Region around Fairbanks during May. This is a key milestone for the system, since virtually all other first responders in the state communicate with the Troopers.



Site Summit

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From The ALMR Program Office
Introducing the New ALMR General Manager



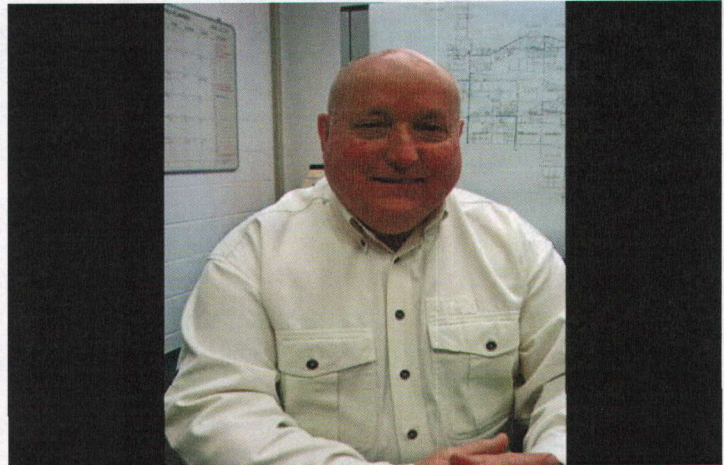
Ken Jones, PhD
State Program
Manager

The role of the ALMR General Manager is to work directly for the user community. The General Manager will ensure the operational and maintenance requirements of system users are being met by the various service providers working for the ALMR system.

In March, Jim Stout was named the General Manager for ALMR. Jim has been in telecommunication and data operations roles for more than 40 years. This includes telecom operations positions in more than 30 countries.

Jim began his telecommunications career with the U.S. Navy in Southeast Asia. After completing his military Service, Jim became one of the first AT&T employees in Alaska, located in Ketchikan. He was responsible for laying the AT&T underwater cable, and connecting Alaska with the lower 48. Jim was the first Installation Manager for (RCA) Alascom responsible for the installation of RF systems statewide.

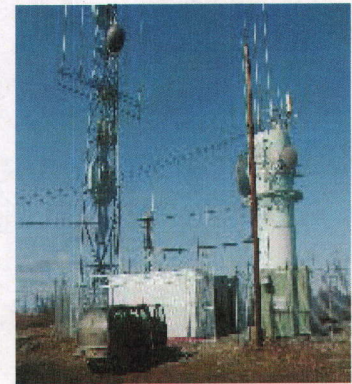
In February 1975, Jim joined the BP/Arco team at Prudhoe Bay where he served as the Senior Telecommunications and Computer Supervisor for BP Alaska for the next 11 years. He was responsible for the operation of BP's RF, Telephony and Computer/SCADA distribution north of the Arctic Circle.



ALMR is pleased to welcome Jim Stout
as the
ALMR General Manager

Jim's international experience includes serving as the VP and Chief Operating Officer of Hungarian Telephone and Cable Corporation. This was a three year program for the build-out of the five largest telecommunications systems in Hungary. After completion of his commitments, he accepted a position as Director of Planning and Technical Development for Metro-Media International with offices in Vienna and Baku, Azerbaijan. Jim has also worked in Russia, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, China and other countries in Asia.

In South America, Jim worked from a base of operations in San Jose, Costa Rica. This project paved the way for telecommunications serving all of Central America, from Maria Chiquita, Panama to Mexico, City.



Ester Dome



Ester Dome Tower

From The User Council—We are now operational!

This month finds User's Council members reviewing hundreds and hundreds of pages of documents brought to us by the project team. The largest of these is a three binder set titled, *Roadmap to Beneficial Use - Critical Plans*. The Roadmap includes sections on program management, operations and maintenance, and standard operating procedures.

However, the most critical document we are looking at is called the *Service Level Agreement (SLA)*. It is only about 60 pages long, but describes the level at which the ALMR system will be maintained. Not only does it set out the level of reliability we users re-

quire, but it establishes the level to which equipment owners must maintain the equipment.

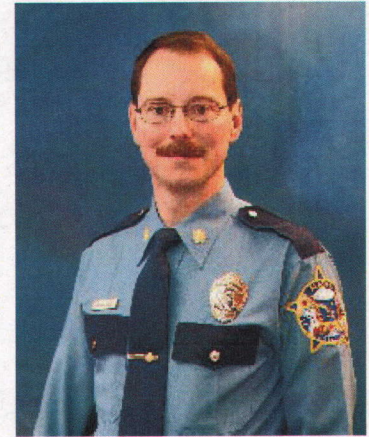
The project team is asking us to take a close look at the SLA because it will ultimately determine how much it costs to run the system. No steps are taken in the SLA to specify exactly who pays what to keep the system running, only to specify what we want.

A process will be implemented that User's Council members will use to suggest modifications to these and other documents. Individual suggestions will be assembled, reviewed by other members of the User's Council, and routed to the project team. Ultimately, the

User's Council will present the documents to the Executive Committee for their approval or modification.

If system users or projected users are not in regular contact with their representative on the User's Council, I encourage you to get involved. Although the members of the User's Council can review these documents in a vacuum, it is in everyone's best interest to have as many sharp minds reviewing these documents.

The members of the User's Council have been asked to provide feedback on the SLA to the project team by April 30, 2006, so we need your help now!



Major Matt Leveque
Chair, User Council



Birch Hill

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Vacant	Non-DOD Federal	
Vacant	Non-DOD Federal	

Comment From ALMR User***FIRE CHIEF*****Memo**

To: ALMR Executive Council
FROM: George R. Keeney
Date: 12-15-06
RE: ALMR Use in Valdez

Over the past year I have been very vocal on the issue of use of ALMR radios and the systems work in Valdez with the staff at ALMR. We had trouble talking to fire department personnel even one mile away from each other. When we went into building we lost communications. As a fire chief I had to worry about crews in fires and not being able to talk to command.

Since the system has been turned on at the divide in Thompson Pass we now have communications that are great. I would like to tell you as of yesterday we checked the signals through our area and all the way to Anchorage and Fairbanks. We have almost full coverage and it is clear, even in Keystone Canyon. The majority of the area we can use even the hand held radios.

At this time I would like to praise the staff at ALMR for fixing the system and doing such a great job. I can now tell everyone that I enjoy the radio communications we have.

You have made my job better with the new system!

Thank you so very much.

Volunteer Organizations Planning

The preparation for bringing the Troopers onto the ALMR system continues. An important part of this process is ensuring all agencies and jurisdictions who need to communicate with the Troopers can continue to do so. This is especially important for the volunteer fire and emergency medical services (EMS) units in the Fairbanks region.

The state program office will provide a planning and organization session for these agencies in Fairbanks on Saturday, April 22, 2006 from Noon to 4:30 PM. The location is Pike's Waterfront

Lodge, Alyeska Board Room. Any organization that needs assistance coordinating their communications with the cutover to ALMR should plan to attend this session. Agencies planning to attend should contact the ALMR Project Coordinator, Karen Felts, at karen_felts@ak-prepared.com.



Gold Creek



Gold Creek Shelter

Questions and Rumor Control

As the time for the cutover of the Troopers onto ALMR approaches, questions and rumors abound. The program office is the central coordination point to address issues, questions and rumors.

Please contact the following individuals with your questions or concerns.

For state, local and civilian federal agencies and jurisdictions:

Dr. Ken Jones
 ken_jones@admin.state.ak.us
 kjonesphd@gci.net (24/7)

For DoD users

Mr. Tim Woodall
timothy.woodall@elmendorf.af.mil



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Points of Contact

ALMR Executive Council

State of Alaska, Dept. of Public Safety, Commissioner William Tandeske	(907) 465-4322
DoD Alaska Command, Colonel Kristine M. Clifton	(907) 552-8350
Alaska Municipal League, Heather Handyside, MOA/Municipal Manager	(907) 343-4546
U.S. Attorney's Office, Deborah Smith, First Assistant U.S. Attorney	(907) 271-5071

Department of Administration/Enterprise Technology Services

Mike Callahan, Director	(907) 269-5749
Ken Jones, Ph.D., ALMR State Program Manager	(907) 748-4294

Technical Support/ALMR Help Desk

Robb Phillips, System Manager	(907) 269-5607
Casey Borg, System Technologist	(907) 269-5062

To Receive This Newsletter
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To
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