



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



**MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council**

**August 18, 2022**

**FROM: DOD Co-Chair**

**SUBJECT: February 23 Meeting Minutes**

**TO: See Distribution**

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**Executive Council Members:**

Colonel Matthew "Pudge" Davis	Department of Defense – ALCOM/J6 (via teleconference)
Chief Michael Kerle	Municipality of Anchorage – Anchorage Police Department (via teleconference)
Chief Alex Boyd	Alaska Municipal League – Anchorage Fire Department (via teleconference)

**ALMR Support Team Members and Guests:**

Mr. John Rockwell	User Council Chair (via teleconference)
Mr. Dan Nelson	ALMR Operations Manager (via teleconference)
Mr. Travis Conant	ALMR System Manager (via teleconference)
Mr. Trygve Erickson	Municipality of Anchorage (via teleconference)
Mr. Timothy Woodall	ALMR PM/COR – ALCOM/J6(via teleconference)
Mr. Scott Stormo	Alaska Public Safety Communication Services
Mr. Trygve Erickson	Municipality of Anchorage (via teleconference)
Mr. David Reed	Information Systems Security Manager (via teleconference)
Mr. Jim Nicholls	Motorola Solutions
Nr, Dave Patterson	Motorola Solutions
Mr. Tim Thometz	Icom America (via teleconference)
Mr. Pete Rogell	BK Technologies (via teleconference)

1. **Call to Order.** Colonel Matthew “Pudge” Davis, Department of Defense (DOD) Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:46 p.m. The roll was read.

2. **Opening Statements and Other Announcements.** Colonel Davis asked if there were any opening statements or other announcements and there were none.

3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.** Colonel Davis asked if the members had reviewed the draft meeting minutes from the October Executive Council meeting and if there were any requested changes. There were no requested changes.

**Motion: Approve the October 23, Executive Council meeting minutes, as presented.**

Colonel Matthew Davis made a motion for approval and Chief Alex Boyd seconded. There were no objections or further discussion. **The motion was carried and approved.**

4. **Old Business.**

a. SOA Quantar Replacement. Colonel Davis asked if there were any updates on the Quantar replacement project. Mr. John Rockwell advised we are on track and on task as far as the replacement for all of the old Quantars. He noted the engineering is complete for the remaining Anchorage site and completion of the configurations and the replacement at the other sites is anticipated for the early spring. Mr. Rockwell stated at that point the project plan to upgrade the system software will begin and is anticipated to be done sometime this fall.

b. State Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB). Mr. Rockwell briefed there were no updates at this time and the Commissioner of Public Safety is still hoping to sponsor a SIGB in some format with the governor's office, but at this point it's in a backburner status

c. Long-term Cost Share Solution. Mr. Rockwell stated that Deputy Commissioner Morgan continues to work with the executives in the Governor's office to come up with some type of a long-term solution, but at this point they had nothing that they are actively moving forward on.

d. DOD Contract for System Upgrade. Mr. Timothy Woodall briefed the Air Force has provided their funds and a task order was issued by the State of Alaska, so all Air Force agencies in Alaska are currently funded for the contract upgrade. He also noted preliminary project meetings with Motorola have already been held. Mr. Woodall

advised with regard to the Army, Colonel Davis was able to secure from their senior leadership the acknowledgement that funding was required, and they are under the understanding that funding will be forthcoming. He pointed out the federal government is still under a continuing resolution with no Defense Authorization Act being funded. Mr Woodall briefed until they get out of the continuing resolution situation, the army being able to take funds out of new fiscal year funding would be difficult to do, but the expectation is that they will execute a task order when funds are available.

e. Fiduciary Responsibilities. Mr. Woodall advised Mr. Scott Stormo had sent him an email addressed to the Army about paying invoice requirements that they have not yet completed. He noted it is very important that they get an interservice support agreement together and agree to terms on how monies will be passed, so that they don't continue to deal with this this issue. Mr. Woodall pointed this is the legal way to do it since the DOD is not under the Federal Acquisition Regulations in terms of funding a contract action and typically money would be forwarded to the Defense Finance and Accounting System (DFAS) and they would receive invoices ahead of time. Mr. Woodall stated they need to have a process in place to support getting funds to the State of Alaska so that we don't end up in arrears, so he and Mr. Stormo will start to work that very hard here in the next month or so.

Mr. Stormo agreed and stated in the eight years that he'd been here it had been an issue, so they need to find a more formal way to get that documented so they have something to reference back to on how it works since this is definitely not normal for either of us.

## **5. User Council Update.**

a. Mr. Rockwell stated TSgt Christopher Maley was appointed as the new alternative representative at Eielson Air Force, and there are still two vacancies for primary representatives, one with DOT and the other with USARAK

b. Mr. Rockwell briefed the council would be looking at the current list of prioritized sites in their April meeting and then reevaluating them. He also requested anyone with any influence with the budget cycle to please support and continue that work. He noted there are a few things going on with regards to ALMR in the budget and one of them is some funding for some additional sites.

c. Mr. Rockwell advised that the membership agreement will be reviewed in April in preparation for distribution in May for the fiscal year of 2023.

## **6. Operations Management Office.**

a. Training. Mr. Dan Nelson stated the next training is scheduled for next week and will cover programming best practices session. He noted, for the Executive Council's awareness, that the training will cover some of the technical aspects of radio programming but is not meant to teach members how to how to program. Mr. Nelson briefed there were a lot of common trends that need to be looked at that are causing

issues for the System Management Office like the duplication of IDs. He advised the OMO would also have some additional videos coming to the website in the vignette format for small topical use cases.

b. Annual Reports. Mr. Nelson advised the council members the annual reports have been completed and completed, and those reports will be distributed to the Executive Council via email for their review and approval. He briefed the reports were the Business Case, the User Council Annual Assessment on Operations and Management, and the Information Assurance Report of Findings.

c. System metrics. Mr. Nelson briefed there were about 1,149,000 calls with 2,085,000 push to talks that represents 217 busies in the system. He pointed out he had noticed a lot of increased traffic for some of the weather days, and heavy snow days. Mr. Nelson also briefed to the 2021 push-to-talk metrics and that there was a fairly consistent increase in push to talks over the course of the year and a very similar track with the individual and group calls.

Mr. Nelson stated he thought with subscriber units, increasing weather exercises and other factors that the overall take home message with our metrics is the usage of our system is growing and really performing very, very well. He noted there were some sites under three nines reliability, but most of those were due to upgrades, some power and weather issues, and some preventative maintenance.

d. Outreach. Mr. Nelson noted the Operations Management Office has been trying to do outreach to members and since he joined near the holiday season as the Operations Manager, that time was a little bit slow for information from members, but as he is getting into things through the winter, he's had the opportunity to talk with some members and do some additional outreach.

Ms. Nelson noted he has also been working with some of the User Council representatives to increase their participation and get their feedback to make the communication a good two-way street.

Mr. Nelson briefed the ALMR offices are also preparing for the upgrade, and as Mr. Rockwell said, that schedule is going forward, and the SMO and others have met with some of the Motorola project managers and some of the other folks that would be taking over as we get into the core upgrade and starting that planning process for this fall.

Mr Nelson stated the SMO is planning a significant amount of preventative maintenance visits starting fairly soon to try to get as much done ahead of time in order to focus their resources on the upgrade.

Mr. Nelson advised the OMO had also done some outreach with our vendors and also continued to meet with them one-on-one. He pointed out that there are new models of subscriber units that are likely coming out due to the new NFPA standards for firefighter radios as well as the normal development cycle/model cycle and the OMO has been actively reaching out to set up acceptance testing.

e. TDMA. Mr. Nelson reminded the council that there had been a lot of ongoing conversations about the TDMA upgrade, and also a lot of the member agencies are looking for the date that that's going to happen. He recommended to wait and see how the upgrade schedule progresses before making any decisions. Mr. Nelson pointed out, especially our smaller member agencies, switching out units will be something that they need to budget for.

Mr. Woodall stated this was an issue that he was going to bring up as well. He advised the User Council and the Executive Council need to come to a firm decision regarding when the System is going to migrate to TDMA. Mr. Woodall explained that a federal Motorola sales representative had provided JBER a quote for bringing all the radios up to TDMA status and that JBER had misunderstood that amount was part of the coming Cy22 System hardware/software upgrade, but he had straightened that understanding out. He noted it will take millions of dollars to upgrade the number of subscriber units that DoD currently have, and having three to five years for the services to do their fiduciary planning and obtain funding, along with the continual infrastructure upgrades and funding required to keep pace, is critical. Mr. Woodall expressed that the sooner this is addressed, and a firm timeline is established, the requirement and associated funding can be advocated for, and understood by those who have to fight for the funding.

Mr. Nelson responded stating he should revisit it again and also bring that to the User Council and go from there with establishing that date.

f. Fairbanks audit. Mr. Nelson briefed he was able to make a trip to Fairbanks a few weeks ago and visit a few of our dispatch centers as well as the master site. He noted he had done some of our audits while there that hadn't been on the schedule.

## **7. New Business.**

There was no New Business presented.

**8. Next Meeting.** Colonel Davis briefed the next meeting is scheduled for April 21 at 1:30 at 5900 E. Tudor.

**9. Adjourn Meeting.** Colonel Davis asked if there were any other comments or anything to add to the meeting and hearing none, made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion: Adjourn the February 12 Executive Council meeting.**

The motion was seconded by Chief Boyd. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

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Timothy Meerstein, Colonel, USAF  
ALCOM J6  
ALMR Executive Council

**Distribution:**

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SOA DPS, Mr. John Rockwell  
SOA DPS, Mr. Buckley Clarke