



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



MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council

January 12, 2023

FROM: DOD Co-Chair

SUBJECT: October 20 Meeting Minutes

TO: See Distribution

Executive Council Members:

Colonel Timothy "Steiner" Meerstein
 Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow

Assistant Chief Alex Boyd

Ms. Sarah Mueller

Department of Defense – ALCOM/J6
 State of Alaska – Department of Public
 Safety
 Alaska Municipal League – Anchorage Fire
 Department (via teleconference)
 Anchorage Federal Executive Association-
 Federal Bureau of Investigation (via
 teleconference)

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests:

Mr. Scott Stormo

Mr. John Rockwell

Mr. Dan Nelson

Mr. Paul Fussey

Mr. Nikalus Fahnstock

Mr. Trygve Erickson

Mr. David Reed

Mr. Jim Kortbein

Mr. Jim Nicholl

Mr. Tim Thometz

Mr. Pete Rogell

Ms. Sherry Shafer

Alaska Public Safety Communication
 Services
 User Council Chair
 ALMR Operations Manager (outgoing)
 ALMR Operations Manager (incoming)
 ALMR System Manager
 Municipality of Anchorage (via
 teleconference)
 Information Systems Security Manager
 (via teleconference)
 ALCOM/J64
 Motorola Solutions
 Icom America (via teleconference)
 BK Technologies (via teleconference)
 Operations Management Office (via
 teleconference)

1. **Call to Order.** Colonel Timothy “Steiner” Meerstein, Department of Defense (DOD) Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The roll was read and a quorum of Executive Council members were present.

2. **Opening Statements and Other Announcements.** Colonel Meerstein asked if there were any announcements and there were none.

3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.** Colonel Meerstein asked the members if they had a chance to review the draft meeting minutes from the August Executive Council meeting and if there were any requested changes. There were no requested changes.

Motion: Approve the August 18, Executive Council meeting minutes, as presented.

The motion was made by Assistant Chief Alex Boyd and seconded by Colonel Meerstein. There were no objections or further discussion. **The motion was carried and approved.**

4. **Old Business.**

a. SOA Quantar Replacement. Colonel Meerstein asked if there were any updates on the Quantar replacement project. Mr. John Rockwell deferred to Mr. Scott Stormo to respond.

Mr Stormo advised the last site that needed Quantars replaced was Sunny Hay and that had been completed, but unfortunately something has been down ever since. He added they have equipment on the way as we speak and will get that put in as soon as the weather allows.

Mr. Rockwell requested that Mr. Stormo also provide an update on the next phase of the project, which is the upgrade to the operating system.

Mr. Stormo stated the system is operating on the 2021.1 platform that has been completed although there are still some minor things like the logging recorders that have not been updated but are still all running on the old platform. He added sometime next year they will turn up the TDMA on the system. Mr. Stormo advised the DOD also has some microwave upgrades that are going to be occurring next spring, so the hope is that the upgrade will be all done with the majority of this project and be running on TDMA and be ready to start looking forward to the next upgrade start.

b. State Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB). Mr. Rockwell explained there were no updates on the SIGB as discussed in the previous meeting other than that when it was briefed the governor had signed Administrative Order 333 (AO 333), which talks about a 911 consolidated group to give direction for 911 state line and along with that they will be talking about interoperable communications which kind of touches on that. He noted there had been one meeting where they elected the Mayor of Ketchikan, Rodney Dial,

as the chair and the 9-1-1 dispatch manager at MATCOM, Mr. Jacob Butcher, as the vice chair. Mr. Rockwell added the second meeting is scheduled for 4:00 o'clock this afternoon so hopefully, at the next quarterly update, he will be able to provide some additional information.

c. Long-term Cost Share Solution. Colonel Meerstein asked Mr. Rockwell if he had any updates on this item and Mr. Rockwell stated there were no updates at this time pending the discussion regarding AO 333. He advised once they get into how they plan to supplement or fund 9-1-1 of the future, they will have discussions on future funding for ALMR, but some of the ideas that have been floated, for example, are the surcharge might be increased from maximum of \$2.00 to \$2:50, and \$0.50 of that can go to the radio network that supports 9-1-1 especially as we migrate from the traditional 9-1-1 dial-type phone call to NextGen which talks about how a call comes in, what data that call contains, how does that data get to someone at the other end, etc.

d. DOD Contract for System Upgrade. Colonel Meerstein noted the next item is the Department of Defense contract for system upgrade and pending any updates from Mr. Kortbein. I recommend this item be closed.

Mr. Jim Kortbein stated there was no update.

There was no other discussion, and this item is now **CLOSED**.

e. DOD FY22 Budget. Colonel Meerstein advised as he had briefed at the last meeting, the budget was signed into law, the budget being the DOD FY22 budget and if there were no other questions, he recommend that this item be closed.

There was no other discussion, and this item is now **CLOSED**.

f. Fiduciary Responsibilities. Colonel Meerstein asked Mr. Kortbein if he had any new information to offer on this item, and Mr. Kortbein responded there were no updates.

5. User Council Update.

Mr. Rockwell briefed the User Council currently has two vacant positions and asked Mr. Sherry Shafer to provide those positions to which she responded they were the US Army primary representative and the SOA All Others primary representative.

6. Operations Management Office.

a. ALMR upgrade. Mr. Dan Nelson reiterated the Quantar replacements with the GTRs has been completed, and the core upgrade is completed, but there are still some punch list items in progress that are needed as a prerequisite for the TDMA transition, as well as getting ALMR up to date on software and adding a few more options. He noted there are still some Motorola technicians on site and the past few weeks have

been very busy on the System Management Office (SMO) side and he certainly appreciates the hard work they've done.

b. Training/Outreach. Mr. Nelson advised the Operations Management Office (OMO) is currently doing some outreach to the members regarding the TDMA transition, which requires many agencies at all levels to replace their XTL- and XTS-series subscriber units that are not compatible with TDMA. He reminded the council that the subscriber replacement/transition would be a four-year process and as part of that, the OMO is reaching out individually to look at every agency's inventory starting with the locals.

Mr. Nelson noted he had not completed very many calls at this point but each one is approximately 30-minute meetings, and most of those people had at least heard about the transition. He noted the OMO has been talking about it in the quarterly newsletters and other meetings, but there were still some agencies that it hasn't been in on their radar. Mr. Nelson stated that the objective of the calls to make sure it's on everybody's radar so agencies can start budgeting in their fiscal years or planning fundraisers.

Mr. Nelson advised this was going to probably take another couple of months to get through each agency.

Mr. Rockwell asked if while Mr. Nelson was discussing the upgrade with them, if he was talking about what seems to be a discrepancy between the number of radios that ALMR shows that the agency has and the number of radios that they believe they have and also asked if Mr. Nelson could give an update on how that part of the discussion has been going.

Mr. Nelson explained the ALMR gets requests through the Help Desk for agencies adding new radios, but oftentimes they keep the old radios for spares or for other reasons and they don't delete it off the system, so as we talk about the TDMA transition, we may have as many as 14,000 radios in the in the system right now that are not TDMA capable, but we don't really know if those are in active use or if they're cache radios. Therefore, ALMR has been encouraging individual agencies to make sure their inventories are cleaned up, so we have accurate information in the system.

c. Annual membership agreement renewal. Mr. Nelson briefed there were 134 agency renewals completed for the year and that the OMO is working with a couple agencies in the Juneau area interested in joining ALMR.

d. System metrics. Mr. Nelson noted there were a little less than 1.4 million calls on the system, which is an increase of about 329,000 from September of last year. He briefed system usage, as a whole, is up and that seems to be fairly spread out amongst all the agencies. Mr. Nelson added there was some wildfire activity and some things we can certainly correlate to the increased traffic, but for the most part there's just in general increase. He stated now we're getting into wintertime, things aren't quite as busy with some of our agencies, but there is still a significant amount of traffic, so the system is being well utilized.

Mr. Nelson briefed for September there were 241 busies which is pretty normal, but still lower than the last September, even with the increase in traffic and with TDMA there is the potential of being able to double the channel capacity and further reduce busies.

f. OMO/SMO Budget. Mr. Nelson advised that as he had mentioned in Old Business at the last meeting, the OMO and SMO budget would usually be presented for the Executive Council approval at this point, but we are still waiting for just a couple agencies pieces of information. He stated as soon as the OMO gets that document finalized, they will e-mail that out. Mr. Nelson advised he hoped that would be early in November, but there are some dynamics with the supply chain that's really causing us a little bit of difficulty with obtaining future cost figures.

f. OMO Transition. Mr. Nelson briefed the last item he wanted to share was an update for the OMO. He stated due to some personal commitments, he is not able to continue in the role as the Operations Manager but wanted to thank everybody on the Executive Council for the time he has been able to serve in the role. Mr. Nelson noted he would still be around on the contract doing some other things and providing backup for the Operations Manager position, so they might still see him from time to time or see a report from him.

Mr. Nelson then introduced Mr. Paul Fussey, who he stated most of them might already know. He stated Mr. Fussey would be taking over officially in a week or two, but they have been transitioning him to the new operations manager role.

Mr. Fussey introduced himself and noted ne was transitioning over from a previous job and had been contracted by Wostmann Associates to take over for Mr. Nelson. He reiterated that Mr. Nelson would be transitioning to the training mode and then also backup for him and that he was proud to be here and get started.

7. New Business.

Colonel Meerstein stated he had one item and that even though the DOD had closed the FY22 budget status, he just wanted to highlight that the DOD is now in FY23 and under a continuing resolution authority, which means Congress has not passed the budget and the President has not signed that into law for FY23. He added he would expect as in previous years that it would be signed into law later in the fiscal year, and there was no operational impact forecasted by that delay.

8. Next Meeting. Colonel Meerstein noted the next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2023, at 1:30p.m. in the Alaska Public Safety Communication Services conference room. He requested everyone to please check their calendars and let Ms. Shafer know if they had any conflicts.

9. Adjourn Meeting. Colonel Meerstein made a final call for anything else for the good of the group and hearing no comments, he requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Adjourn the October Executive Council meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Timothy J. Meerstein, Colonel, USAF
ALCOM J6
ALMR Executive Council

Distribution:

SOA/DPS, Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow
USNORTHCOM/ALCOM J6, Colonel Timothy “Steiner” Meerstein
FBI, Ms. Sarah Mueller
MOA, Chief Michael Kerle
AML, Assistant Chief Alex Boyd
OMO, Mr. Paul Fussey
SOA DPS, Mr. Scott Stormo
ALCOM/J64, Mr. Timothy Woodall
MOA, Mr. Trygve Erickson
SOA DPS, Mr. John Rockwell
SOA DPS, Mr. Buckley Clarke