



**ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes**

Date: February 1, 2023

1. Attendance.

P = Present	T = Via Telephone	E = Excused	U = Unexcused	N/A = Not required
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User Council Members

Primary				
U	Atkinson	Ross	Mr.	Federal Non-DOD DOI, BLM-Alaska Fire Service
T	Berrian	Keith	Deputy Chief	Municipalities North, Chena Goldstream Fire & Rescue
E	Cole	Henry	Mr.	SOA DOT
T	Goggia-Cockrell	Tammy	Ms.	Municipalities Central, Vice Chair
	VACANT			DOD US Army - Alaska
N/A	Hernandez	Brandon	SSgt	DOD USAF, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
T	Kalwara	Erann	Ms.	Municipalities Southeast
U	Kroona	Jon	Mr.	Federal Non-DOD DOJ, FBI
U	Nelson	James	Officer	Federal Non-DOD All Others, US Forest Service
T	Martin	Chris	Mr.	DOD USAF, Eielson AFB
T	Rockwell	John	Mr.	SOA DPS, Chair
	VACANT			SOA All Others, DNR Forestry

Alternate				
N/A	Acone	Abigail	SrA	DOD USAF, JBER
U	Brown	David	Mr.	Fed Non-DOD DOJ, FBI
E	Carter	Bobby	Mr.	Federal Non-DOD All Others, TSA
E	Clendenin	John	Mr.	SOA DOT
T	De Hart	Kaitlyn	A1C	DOD USAF, JBER
E	Edwards	Karl	Mr.	DHS
E	Green	Kyle	Fire Marshal	Municipalities North, University Fire Department
T	Goodman	Jim	Mr.	Municipalities Central, MatSu Borough
N/A	Maley	Christopher	TSgt	DOD USAF, Eielson AFB
U	Nelsen	Scott	Mr.	SOA All Others, DMVA
E	Redington	Robert	Mr.	Federal Non-DOD DOI, US Fish and Wildlife Service
N/A	Roberts	Rick	Captain	SOA DPS
N/A	Scott	Heath	Chief	Municipalities Southeast, Haines Borough PD
E	Williams	Rick	Mr.	DOD, US Army - Alaska

Supporting Staff and Guests:

T	Butcher	Joel	Mr.	MATCOM
T	Endres	Ben	Lt	DPS
P	Fahnestock	Nik	Mr.	System Manager
T	Flores	Mickey	Mr.	BK Technologies
P	Fussey	Paul	Mr.	Operations Manager
T	Patterson	Dave	Mr.	Motorola Solutions
P	Reed	Dave	Mr.	Security Manager
T	Reiter	Simon	MSG	11ABN DIV
P	Richter	Bruce	Mr.	DHS CISA



**ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes**

Date: February 1, 2023

T	Rogell	Pete	Mr.	BK Technologies
T	Shafer	Sherry	Ms.	ALMR Document Specialist
T	Stormo	Scott	Mr.	ALMR/ASPCS Manager
T	Teel	James	Mr.	BK Technologies
T	Ulrich	Naomi	Ms.	Motorola Solutions
P	Woodall	Timothy	Mr.	ALCOM J6 PM/COR

2. Meeting Minutes and Action Items.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items Assigned
Call to Order	Mr. John Rockwell called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.	
Roll Call	Roll call was taken, and a quorum of User Council (UC) members was not in attendance for the meeting. Ms. Erann Kalwara, Mr. Chris Martin, and Mr. Joel Butcher joined after the roll was read.	
Introduction of Guests/Special Announcements	Mr. Paul Fussey stated after the meeting today, there would be a short presentation from BK Technologies with Mr. James Teel and Mr. Mickey Flores regarding Interop 1.	
Previous Meeting Minutes	The January meeting minutes were not approved due to the lack of a quorum.	
Issues & Risks Log	Updates	Action Items Assigned
	John asked Ms. Sherry Shafer if there were any updates to the Issues and Risks Log. Sherry stated she had added one new item regarding an issue that had been ongoing for a while and I thought it should be added to keep it in front of the council. She explained last July there was a severe windstorm in the Fairbanks area which caused a power failure at the Birch Hill master site, and it damaged the power system up there, resulting in the B side buss failure. Sherry noted the power had been rerouted to the A side since then, but the current fix is not the best. MSG Simon Reiter, 11ABN, briefed they were working with a technician up there and have the new system in place, but found there was a switching system issue. He noted they had another work order in process to get that switching fixed but will have a fully operational A and B side for the power shortly and he was waiting on confirmation of that.	
	Issues closed at, or since, last meeting	
	N/A	
Action Items	Review	Resolution



**ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes**

Date: February 1, 2023

	John advised there were no action items from the January meeting.	
Operations Management Office	Mr. Paul Fussey, Operations Manager	Action Items Assigned
First Quarterly Live Training Event	1. Mr. Paul Fussey stated he has been working with Mr. Dan Nelson on scheduling the first quarterly live training event and it will be held on February 13 at 10:00. He added the OMO will send out the link to everyone by e-mail, as well as post it on the website and also on Twitter. Mr. Fussey explained the main part of the meeting and the training will be focused on the interoperability zone. He added this was chosen due to the survey responses from many individuals requesting some training.	
ATP Updates	2. Paul briefed the JVC Kenwood mobile has been approved and added to the ALMR radio list and if you hover over the radio number on the web site we do have the brochures listed on there. Paul stated the Technisonic aircraft radio TDFM 9000 has now been updated to be TDMA capable and the brochure for it is also on the website. Paul added he has also been reaching out and talking to other radio manufacturers to set up a time to test their TDMA radios for use on the ALMR system and as they become available, the OMO will add them to the website, and he will brief the additions at the UC meetings. He explained ALMR is trying to give the users more options.	
January Document Reviews	3. Paul reported the Security Control, Radio Usage and transmission policies and procedure, System Vulnerability Management policy and procedure, Roles and Responsibilities, and System Description were reviewed.	
January System Metrics	4. Paul noted the group and individual calls were 1,536,708 which is approximately 500,000 more than last year at this time. For monthly push to talk, he stated there were 2,500,886, which again was about 500,000 more than last year at this time. Paul added the monthly busies were 120, which is .0005% of the total calls. Paul stated for the system performance and sites below three nines there were eight sites – Cottonwood Creek, Divide, Donnelly Dome, Fire Station 12, Heney Range, Pipeline Hills, Valdez, and Women’s Bay. He explained many of those were down for just regular maintenance, but one was down for a third-party circuit which had now been fixed, as of this morning.	



*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: February 1, 2023

Other	<p>Mr. Tim Woodall asked to confirm those down times weren't related to Motorola response to maintenance or anything that had to do with their standard maintenance or other issues.</p> <p>Mr. Nik Fahnestock responded that in a perfect world, we would be able to track planned and scheduled maintenance and take it out, and that's why we're reporting three nines, because no site will make five nines. He explained it had been talked about a lot because there are hundreds of UEM lines a day and if a microwave reroutes traffic, it generates a ton of UEM lines. You would have to go out and read hundreds of alarms and see if it was because the state was doing work on the microwaves and was that planned. Nik emphasized it would be impossible because this would be a full-time job.</p> <p>Paul clarified to those listening on the phone that the discussion was between Mr. Woodall and Mr. Stormo regarding reporting three nines versus five nines.</p> <p>Mr. Scott Stormo stated we haven't talked about in a while, but we chose to brief the three nines because we felt that if something's down long enough to show up on the three nines on a monthly, it is worth looking at and talking about what happened and if it was more significant. He added if we left it at the five nines threshold, almost every site would be shown, so that's just generating too much noise to look at in the report.</p> <p>Scott pointed out although the slide doesn't necessarily explain in great detail why the sites were below three nines and what the cause was, they have been looked at in great detail and if there was an issue, we would have had a conversation behind the scenes.</p> <p>Scott advised for the next month we can just add a dash followed by what happened whether the commercial circuit was down or if Donnelly was because of power, but probably 3/4 of those listed were due to circuits or a related issue and only a couple of those were actually due to annual maintenance.</p> <p>Paul briefed for the website statistics there were 407 sessions by 232 separate users, and of those 89 percent were new and 11 percent were returning, which is good.</p> <p>5. Paul advised the January security backup inspection was completed and he has completed user outreach to over 40 agencies at this time. He added context for the outreach. He has talked to them about the TDMA transition and the goal that all radios on the system must be TDMA capable by December 31, 2026. Paul explained this will allow ALMR</p>	
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*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: February 1, 2023

	<p>users to take full advantage of the upgrades and he noted that he explained to the agencies where to find items on the web page, the approved equipment list, and the latest version of the newsletter.</p> <p>Paul noted the remote security update services will be conducting their quarterly security patches at the beginning of March. He explained security patches have to be completed to keep us in compliance with the ATO and to maintain compliance agencies need to reboot their consoles when the patches come out. Paul stated the latest report as of this morning, showed there were 60 out of 167 consoles that need to be rebooted for the security patches to be applied with the oldest one that he had found being from August 16, 2022. He requested they please reboot them and noted beginning next week he would be reaching out to individuals who haven't rebooted their consoles since after an upgrade.</p> <p>Deputy Chief Keith Berrian stated he had a question concerning consoles because one of the things that is starting to come up is we've got many organizations reaching out trying to figure out what to do as far as upgrades and when we were searching through the approved list of consoles for base stations, there's nothing listed on there that's currently TDMA compatible. He noted the only thing on the base station approved list is the APX 7500, so we will need some direction as to where to go or point people for that.</p> <p>Paul stated the 7500 was the only thing Motorola was selling at the moment and everything else is coming with a power supply with the mobile mounted on top of it, but the consolette is a 7500 radio inside of a box essentially.</p> <p>Keith stated there is a 6500, but it is a single band with its own power supply mounted on it similar to what they have got.</p> <p>Paul noted the OMO needs to get with Motorola and then update the web page.</p>	
System Management Office	Mr. Nik Fahnestock, System Manager	Action Items Assigned
Personnel Changes	Mr. Nik Fahnestock briefed there is one issue with Genesis right now dealing with the airtime calculations. He advised he has been working with the Genesis engineers to kind of recreate it, find out where the issue is, and fix it, but as of right now we can tell that Genesis is not calculating airtime usage how it is supposed to be calculating.	
State of Alaska	Mr. Scott Stormo	Action Items Assigned



***ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes***

Date: February 1, 2023

<p>Antenna Mount Bracket Replacements</p>	<p>1. Mr. Scott Stormo advised the \$24 million upgrade project for the state is currently in a holding pattern waiting on the snow to melt so technicians can get back out to the sites to continue the repair on some antennas that were installed last summer/spring and are hanging broken on the tower. He added Motorola has found a sturdier mounting setup for some of those and has ordered the materials and hopefully the weather will be conducive to getting back out and fixing that. Scott added for the moment it is not causing any coverage problems, but we are just lucky that the antenna hasn't broken completely off.</p>	
<p>New Technologies Implementation</p>	<p>2. Scott briefed they are still hopeful that sometime in the March time frame, they will be implementing some of the newer technologies which can provide different benefits. He noted the Smart Connect Location on push to talk is dependent upon Fed Ramp approval to enable the APX next platform. Scott stated they have heard dates for approval but will wait until they actually see it done. He stated they will continue installing some of the equipment in the March time frame, but they just won't have it connected out to the cloud to do any of that work until it's gotten through the Fed Ramp approval and the RMF process through the DoD.</p>	
<p>TDMA Implementation</p>	<p>3. Scott advised the TDMA implementation is hopefully going to start next summer, and the next step will be the implementation of the Juniper routers at all the sites. He prefaced that with the fact Motorola doesn't necessarily have a firm date at this time for that because of supply chain problems with getting the right kind of routers and that's why they haven't been necessarily allocated a fixed amount for this project yet, but hopefully that will begin this summer.</p>	
<p>Project Continuity with the DOD</p>	<p>4. Scott stated the only other thing he wanted to mention was that he has sat in on the DOD meetings for their proposal that was executed through the State's contract and he has pressed both the Motorola team on the Fed side and the Motorola team on the State side to make sure they're coordinating often and frequently, because he has heard different things said by the different teams at the two meetings which are troublesome for a system that is a shared . He emphasized they have heard from him dozens of times, and he will continue to bring it up. Scott stated for the few DoD people on the call today that have maybe heard me in those meetings, if you ever want to talk about what I'm pushing them on to give me a call afterwards.</p> <p>Mr. Woodall added that as the DOD executes upgrades for enhancements outside of the scheduled upgrades we do as a partnership, it's important from a configuration management standpoint that the proper documentation is run through the OMO. He stated there has to be a change</p>	



***ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes***

Date: February 1, 2023

	<p>request to be examined by all the players to understand the impact on the system and insure that we're not breaking any standards that we comply with the Risk Management Framework certification requirements, so everyone just keep that on top of your mind, because it is one system that we're sharing, so we could do something that would make it not one system and we don't want to do that.</p> <p>Scott clarified he was questioning whether the state project is doing something that the DOD project is maybe doing the exact same thing and they would both get sold something and have duplicates. He pointed out he does not always get the best answer. Scott provided an example of whether a specific antenna was required or not required, and he doesn't know which engineer to believe. He pointed out in this case, the state was sold specific model antennas for TDMA and the DOD was told they didn't need them, so when we start TDMA operations, we may find that we have some degradation of service and then the DOD will have to go back and procure the right antenna. Scott stated at this point on the Fed side, they're saying the current antenna is fine, but on the state side, they're saying they are not. So again, it's the difference between the salespersons or the engineers and it's confusing to the customer.</p>	
Department of Defense	Mr. Timothy Woodall	Action Items Assigned
Life Cycle Management	<p>1. Mr. Timothy Woodall advised last month, Scott and he met with Motorola to talk about life cycle management, the next upgrade, and subscriber changes that are required in the next three to five years. He added the goal is to have that information in the next couple of months so that we can propagate it to the number agencies that would be responsible for going through the funding processes to make sure they have the funds in time to do the required upgrades, or end-of-life equipment replacement, or get your subscribers flashed to TDMA, or get new subscribers.</p> <p>Mr. Woodall stated it is important that we get the life cycle management plan out early, because we understand that the budget process for each of the agencies may be different. He noted he would follow up with this on the DOD side to make sure that each of the agencies that has responsibility for funding be able to do the upgrade when it's required. They will make sure they are going through the proper process to get the funding and to help them if they need justification from Colonel Meerstein to get that through their funding wickets.</p>	
ALMR Authority to Operate	<p>2. If you're looking for the ATO for the RMF for ALMR, it should be signed here in the next 60 days, so no later than June, you will have a brand new authority to operate that is good for three years. For those of you that are required to</p>	



***ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes***

Date: February 1, 2023

	<p>have a copy of that authority to operate, just let us know and we'll make sure you get a copy of the letter signed by the AO that says the system is authorized for operation. That goes for all federal agencies as well.</p> <p>John thanked Mr. Woodall for being proactive with the budget ask and steering the ship, looking forward to the three to five year down the down the road line.</p>	
User Council Representative Reports		Action Items Assigned
SOA DOT	1. There was no representative present.	
SOA DPS	2. John reported DPS is moving the old radios out that we have and moving in the new TDMA radios, and they are looking forward to getting those finalized. He stated they are also working on a couple of other projects for body-worn cameras and an upgrade to the in-car videos.	
SOA All Others	3. There was no All Others representative present.	
US Army Installations	<p>1. MSG Reiter advised he had an update on Birch Hill and that on February 22 and 23 they have a contractor coming in to fix that legacy switch issue they ran into, and he would be on the ground those days at Birch Hill to observe this to make sure that this goes smoothly.</p> <p>Mr. Woodall asked about a new position he heard about.</p> <p>MSG Reiter noted he has posted for a Fort Wainwright installation spectrum manager who will be taking a lot of stuff off his plate, and one of their additional duties is going to be ALMR because they're going to be the primary person responsible for doing the spectrum five-year renewal request on all the frequencies of microwaves that run across the state, which he has been doing since 2015.</p> <p>Mr. Woodall asked if the new individual would take over the vacant primary position as noted on the Issues and Risks Log under UC82.</p> <p>MSG Reiter stated right now he does do Fort Greeley and Fort Wainwright and once he has this civilian hired, they'll be taking over that role, so they'll be able to feed the primary installation points of contact.</p>	
DOD JBER	2. SRA Kaitlyn DeHart stated she had a question for Mr. Woodall regarding spectrum management, and he advised he would reach out to her after the meeting.	
DOD Eielson	3. Chris stated he had nothing for today.	
Federal Non-DOD DOJ	1. There was no representative present.	



***ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes***

Date: February 1, 2023

Federal Non-DOD DOI	2. There was no representative present.	
Federal Non-DOD All Others	3. There was no representative present.	
Munis – Central Munis-North	<p>1. Ms. Tammy Goggia-Cockrell briefed on January 16 the Kenai Peninsula Borough had deployed text to 9-1-1 to their four PSAPs and had successfully handled two calls. She stated they did not expect a high volume of calls this way, which is standardized from her research in looking at other agencies across the nation who have deployed their text to 9-1-1 capability.</p> <p>2. Keith stated he was seeing an increase in users looking for TDMA upgrades and trying to figure out which direction various organizations are going for radios and in his area, most of the departments are trying to standardize radios, so there's a lot of conversations going on like that..</p> <p>John offered whether it's direction, advice, and or just someone to bounce it off of, feel free to call either the OMO or maybe even Scott Stormo directly.</p> <p>3. Lt Erann Kalwara stated she had no updates.</p>	
Munis-SE		
New Business	Discussion	Action Items Assigned
Fed Ramp Approval	<p>Paul briefed he had received an email today from Mr. Reed, the ISSM with the Fed Ramp and APX Next, and the ability to operate has not been signed yet and they do not have an estimate yet.</p> <p>John stated they are really excited to get the Fed Ramp for the APX Next radio and one of the scenarios that's been brought up to him personally is there is a certain area north of Kenai, for example, that we do not have ALMR coverage. but you know, as population has increased and roads have been built and people have been moving out, we have the need to keep the troopers in contact with dispatch. He continued so one of the solutions that have been brought up is the possibility of an APX Next radio that is the radio that has the FirstNet SIM in it and so as you move out of ALMR coverage, the radio is looking at the signal strength and will keep you in contact as it switches over to a cellular connection. John emphasized it's one of the items that he is looking forward to testing in the near future.</p>	
Next meeting	Discussion	
	John stated the next meetings are March 1 and April 5.	
Adjournment	Discussion	
	John asked if there was any other discussion and hearing no response, the meeting was ended at 2:15pm.without a	



*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: February 1, 2023

	motion or vote due to the lack of a quorum of representatives present.	
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