



**ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes**

Date: November 6, 2024

1. Attendance.

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

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
T	Cole	Henry	Mr.	SOA DOT
E	Draves	Kayla	MSgt	DoD USAF, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
T	Goggia-Cockrell	Tammy	Ms.	Municipalities Central, Vice Chair
T	Kalwara	Erann	Ms.	Municipalities Southeast, Juneau PD
T	Kroona	Jon	Mr.	Federal Non-DoD DOJ, FBI
E	Nelsen	Scott	Mr.	SOA All Others, DMVA
E	Nelson	James	Officer	Federal Non-DoD All Others, US Forest Service
T	Rodriguez	Joe	MSgt	DoD USAF, Eielson AFB
T	Rockwell	John	Mr.	SOA DPS, Chair
T	Smith	Eric	Mr.	DoD US Army - Alaska

Alternate				
N/A	Brown	David	Mr.	Fed Non-DoD DOJ, FBI
T	Carter	Bobby	Mr.	Federal Non-DoD All Others, TSA
T	Clendenin	John	Mr.	SOA DOT
T	Edwards	Karl	Mr.	DHS, SOA All Others
T	Endres	Benjamin	Lieutenant	SOA DPS
T	Green	Kyle	Fire Marshal	Municipalities North, University Fire Department
T	Goodman	Jim	Mr.	Municipalities Central, MatSu Borough
N/A	Hammer	Nathan	SMSgt	DoD USAF, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
N/A	Herman	Mary	Captain	DoD USAF, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
N/A	Higginbotham	Dave	MSgt	DoD US Army - Alaska
N/A	Maley	Christopher	TSgt	DoD USAF, Eielson AFB
N/A	Peace	David	Mr.	DoD USAF, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
	VACANT			Federal Non-DoD DOI
N/A	Dryden	Josh	Sgt	Municipalities Southeast



*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: November 6, 2024

Supporting Staff and Guests

P	Burnham	Mary	Ms.	Operations Management Office (OMO)
P	Fahnestock	Nik	Mr.	System Manager (SMO)
T	Farrell	Kevin	Mr.	Motorola Solutions
P	Fussey	Paul	Mr.	Operations Manager
T	Haas	Zachary	Mr.	Motorola Solutions
T	Hart	Missy	Ms.	JBER
P	Jones	Ryan	SPC	AK Army National Guard
T	Lane	Donald	Mr.	State of Alaska (SOA) DPS
T	Marlow	Ryan	Mr.	State of Alaska (SOA) DOT
P	Neuman	Mark	Mr.	Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) AWARN
P	Reed	Dave	Mr.	Security Manager
P	Richter	Bruce	Mr.	DHS - CISA
P	Rockwell	Evan	Mr.	Alaska State Defense Force (ASDF)
P	Stormo	Scott	Mr.	State of Alaska (SOA) APSCS
P	Woodall	Timothy	Mr.	DoD ALCOM

2. Meeting Minutes and Action Items.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items Assigned
Call to Order	Mr. John Rockwell called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.	
Roll Call	Roll call was read by Ms. Mary Burnham, and there was a quorum of User Council (UC) members in attendance for the meeting. Mr. Eric Smith, Deputy Chief Keith Berrian, and Fire Marshal Kyle Green joined the meeting after the roll was taken.	
Introduction of Guests/Special Announcements	No guests or special announcements noted.	
Previous Meeting Minutes	John proceeded to the next agenda item, which was the review and approval of the October meeting minutes. He stated he would entertain a motion to approve since there were not any questions or updates. Motion: Approve the October 2 monthly User Council meeting minutes. Motion: Fire Marshal Kyle Green Second: Mr. Bobby Carter John opened the floor for any additional questions. Hearing none, John stated the motion was approved.	



*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: November 6, 2024

Issues & Risks Log	Review	Resolution
	John stated there were no updates to either the Issues and Risk Log or the Action Items at this time.	
Action Items	Updates	Action Items Assigned
	John noted that he was moving on to the next agenda item, Operations Management Overview, and turned the floor over to Mr. Paul Fussey.	
Operations Management Office	Mr. Paul Fussey, Operations Manager	Action Items Assigned
Training	<p>Paul noted that his brief was going to be a long presentation and asked everyone to bear with him.</p> <p>1. Paul briefed that training has been very busy, and that he would like to extend a thank you to Fire Marshal Kyle Green for organizing the venues and creating the training flyers for the four in-person training sessions in Fairbanks and North Pole that Paul and Mr. Dan Nelson presented. Paul stated the sessions were held on October 15th and 16th with approximately sixty people in attendance, and the attendees were from fire, police, EMS, city, borough personnel, and others. He noted that Dan uploaded the recorded ALMR Basic Academy session and it is now available on the ALMR website, in the training section.</p> <p>Paul also briefed that he was asked by the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) to give a training presentation on November 9th, at the CAP's wing conference for their cadets and other personnel. Paul noted that this Saturday he will be presenting similar training to what was done in Fairbanks.</p> <p>Paul stated that he and Dan have been talking to the Juneau Department of Transportation (DOT) office about providing a training session via Microsoft Teams (Teams). Paul noted he has been working with Mr. Patrick Thornton with Alaska Public Safety Communications Service (APSCS) and Mr. Pat Dryer at the DOT office. He commented that it will be similar to the Fairbanks training, but also DOT specific, with such topics as: how they can use the ALMR system more; how they can incorporate it into their dozers and dump trucks as they are doing road maintenance. Paul said that he and Dan will be working on that training and that it will hopefully be soon.</p> <p>2. Paul briefed, ALMR has been looking at and forward leaning on Bi-Directional Amplifiers (BDA), and Motorola</p>	



*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: November 6, 2024

<p>Outreach</p>	<p>Trunked Users Group (MTUG) is creating a BDA subcommittee. He noted that anybody who signs up for the MTUG emails should see that there was a meeting coming out, which will be on Teams. Paul commented that the first meeting will be November 12th and stated that it is the national MTUG committee, not just the Alaska chapter. He stated he will be attending the Teams meeting to see what they are going to talk about, and what kind of requirements they are going to have. Paul said if anybody gets the MTUG emails, to make sure to go through them and sign up to attend those meetings.</p> <p>Paul noted that there will be a BDA Uplinks Testing webinar on November 14th, which is through the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO). He commented that there is a lot of interest in the BDA and Distributed Antenna System (DAS) systems. Paul stated if anybody wants to take a look at those, let him know, and he can send the links.</p> <p>Paul briefed that the monthly APCO/NENA chapter meeting is on November 14th at 2 pm.</p>	
<p>October Document Reviews</p>	<p>3. Paul jumped ahead to the October document reviews since the System Upgrade brief will be a little bit longer and the document reviews are quick.</p> <p>Paul stated that there were only two topics to review for the policies and procedures, which were Information Systems Clearing and Sanitization and Talkgroup Development,</p>	
<p>Upgrades</p>	<p>4. Paul briefed that ALMR is still waiting for the Zone 1 master site Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) backups to be completed. Side A is complete; however, they are still waiting on eight (8) more batteries, which means 72 out of 80 batteries have arrived for side B, and with that side A is up and running for a backup.</p> <p>Paul noted that Mr. Nikalus (Nik) Fahnestock's team completed some preventative maintenance inspections, which included 3 for September; 5 for October; and they are right on schedule for the six-month separation of doing preventative maintenance.</p> <p>Paul also briefed that ALMR just completed the Windows Moto-Patch, so members will get emails to reboot their consoles for the newest security patch update and the Information Systems Security Manager (ISSM) just gave members the upgraded list. Paul asked Mr. David Reed, the ISSM, if he had anything to add, which David did not. Paul said as everyone gets those emails, make sure to upgrade the dispatch consoles, so that ALMR can stay compliant with the security patches.</p>	



*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: November 6, 2024

<p>October System Metrics</p>	<p>Paul asked if there were any questions before he moved on to the metrics.</p> <p>Mr. Henry Cole, with DOT, stated he would like to chat with Paul about expanding the DOT specific training, that Paul briefed earlier, to all of the DOT regions, including Northern, Central, Fairbanks, and Anchorage as well. Henry also noted that he and Paul can talk about this in more detail offline.</p> <p>Paul stated he would contact Henry offline.</p> <p>Henry thanked Paul.</p> <p>5. Paul noted as the members look at the metrics that there was a huge weather event in Fairbanks, and the Ester Dome site was without power for 16 hours, which Genesis did not generate any data. He stated that when the power went down with the huge snowstorm the road to Ester Dome was impassable. Paul commented that the generator would start up and then shut down from overheating due to the louvers not opening, which when looking at the numbers, members are going to see that the numbers were higher this month for the 3 nines. He also noted that there was also a weather event here in Anchorage and that he and Nik were monitoring quite a bit when they came in that morning between 6:30 and 7:00 am. Paul commented that the total number of calls and push to talks were almost double what it usually is when they come in. He stated while going through the numbers, everyone can see the small amount of busies, because the system handled both weather systems phenomenally.</p> <p>Paul briefed that the monthly groups and individual calls were at 1,540,171. He stated the monthly push to talks were 2,457,206, which has gone up quite a bit. Paul stated he was just going to back up and note the push to talks shot up precipitously from the prior month or even the year before and the number of busies have dropped. He commented there were only 133 busies out of over 2,400,000 push to talks. Paul continued on to say the subscriber count was 32,433.</p> <p>Paul mentioned the system sites below three 9's count was 9, which was one (1) down from the year before and up 4 from last month. However, he states that as he goes through the explanations the group can see that what he mentioned before about the Ester Dome winter storm causing it to go offline, caused other sites on the Parks Highway to re-route around to the Richardson Highway through the State of Alaska Telecommunications System (SATS) system. Paul commented that as it started going through the other route, instead of directly through Ester Dome, which is one of the sites below three 9's, the sites started bouncing intermittently</p>	
--------------------------------------	--	--



***ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes***

Date: November 6, 2024

<p>Other Items</p>	<p>because of the limited bandwidth, and those sites were Clear, Garner, Money Knob, Nenana, Reindeer Hills, and Yanert. He also noted that there were 3 sites, Fire Station 12; Clear; and New Knik, which were below three 9's due to Preventative Maintenance Inspections (PMIs).</p> <p>Paul inquired if anyone had any questions about the metrics before he continued, hearing none, he moved on to the next item.</p> <p>6. Paul briefed that he, Nik, and Mr. Mark Neuman, from the Anchorage Wide Area Radio Network (AWARN), were busy last week and this morning performing an Acceptance Test Plan (ATP). He thanked the AWARN team and especially Mark for assisting him and Nik with the ATP on the Motorola N50 portables, which passed the ATP test this morning. Paul noted the information on the radio has been uploaded to the ALMR website and it is TDMA capable.</p> <p>Paul stated on October 30th he was advised by Motorola technician, Mr. Jeremy Rose for Joint Base Elmendorf/Richardson (JBER), that the contract for the R1N battery replacement has been finalized and awarded to a contractor, and optimistically, that work will be completed sometime before the end of 2024.</p> <p>Paul briefed that the annual security inspection for the Zone 1 master site was completed on 5 November and no discrepancies were observed.</p> <p>Paul commented in closing that he wanted to wish a pre-happy birthday to any Marine Corps folks; Veteran's Day is on the 11th; and then happy Thanksgiving to everyone on the 28th.</p> <p>Paul stated that that completed his report, pending any questions.</p> <p>John thanked Paul and asked if there were any other questions for Paul. He mentioned to Paul how much he appreciates all that Paul does for ALMR.</p> <p>John then stated that he would move on to the next agenda item, which is System Management Office (SMO) and Nik.</p>	
<p>System Management Office</p>	<p>Mr. Nik Fahnestock, System Manager</p>	<p>Action Items Assigned</p>



*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: November 6, 2024

	<p>Nik briefed that he had a couple of items he would like to cover, starting with Ester Dome. He noted that with Ester Dome it is not necessarily, per se, that the data was lost, it is more of when the site went down, the normal route bounced the other direction and in that second or two that it took to reroute the singular notice that came from the site never made it to the Genesis system, and so Genesis, because it did not know when Ester Dome actually went down, it was not able to calculate its down time when Ester Dome came back up. Nik commented that the singular message that it did not receive is ultimately the discrepancy of it and that all the other data that he checked, for instance, the subscriber data, the site data to include other sites did make it, it was just those singular ones that did not, so it could not calculate that.</p> <p>Nik stated that the other item he wanted to bring up is the repeated issue of interference, recently at Divide. He noted that between himself and Mr. Evan Rockwell, who made some calls over to some folks in that area, who then made some radio calls to some ship vessels, the interference magically stopped. Nik commented that this is a recurring thing, so if members happen to know Harbor Masters, or whatever the technical term is for them, gently remind them to tell the folks to turn their radios off when they are coming into port.</p> <p>Nik stated that the last thing he wanted to add is, this past month he has been getting an increased number of calls from users having issues with their radios and after assisting them it was ultimately discovered that the radios had duplicate IDs of other radios, so if the members have a programmer or person in charge of programming the radios, let them know to double check that the ID that a radio is assigned to is in fact the correct one and not another. He commented that it can cause a lot of issues, bonks that will be interpreted as a busy, but they are not really busy, or just straight up missed audio. Nik just wanted to relay that to everyone.</p> <p>Mr. Timothy (Tim) Woodall asked Nik on the ships coming into port is that down on the 138 to 144 MHz range or up in the 154 to 180 MHz range?</p> <p>Nik responded that yes, it is in the roughly 140 to 143 MHz range and is typically around the Valdez area and Seward and Homer have issues.</p> <p>Tim inquired if they were foreign ships.</p>	
--	--	--



*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: November 6, 2024

	<p>Nik responded that he cannot say for certain which one is which, but he has heard there is a Norwegian Cruise ship that comes through that has had an issue.</p> <p>Paul noted that Norwegian Cruise ships that are coming into Homer and Seward and causing interference and over in Valdez the oil tankers coming in can cause interference. He stated if you go in the vessel monitoring system or Automatic Identification System (AIS) website, people can see these oil tankers coming into Valdez.</p> <p>Tim commented that the 138 to 144 MHz range is not authorized.</p> <p>Nik was in agreement to Tim's comment and said that the signal is coming in really strong with severe degradation.</p> <p>Mr. Scott Stormo stated that the cruise line "Jewel" interferes with the microwave as it is exactly in the same direction with the SOA's microwave shot.</p> <p>Nik stated that it is every year around the same timeframe around the same time of the day, the same thing.</p> <p>Scott stated that ships and other places should not be using those.</p> <p>Tim said no, they should not because they are not authorized to use those frequencies.</p> <p>Nik noted they might be authorized further out to sea.</p> <p>Tim said if they are out in international waters, it is not a problem, but they are not allocated in the United States (US), because it is reserved for training for the Department of Defense (DoD), and the 138 to 144 MHz band is specifically designated for the DoD and training. He noted the DoD got it modified in Alaska, under the Spectrum Sharing Agreement, to get the 154 to 156-165 MHz public safety spectrum, so in Alaska it is not typically used for training because the military has given that up in Alaska. Tim commented that ALMR would have to notify the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), since the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) does not have any enforcement ability, so it would have to be the FCC because it is a federal spectrum under the federal allocation tables. He went on to say it is not a public safety spectrum, but because it is being used for public safety in the Spectrum Sharing</p>	
--	--	--



*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: November 6, 2024

	<p>Agreement that ALMR should be able to get the FCC to enforce that, and ALMR probably would have to get ahold of the folks in Los Angeles and inform them. Tim inquired if ALMR had any call signs or anything that we could get with regard to identifying them.</p> <p>Nik noted that the system management team typically just makes a couple of phone calls to either dispatchers or harbor masters, and that it goes away.</p> <p>Tim inquired if it is known if they are talking to the harbor master on those frequencies.</p> <p>Nik responded that they are talking for a real long time and there have been a couple of instances where on the dot at 8:00 they come in and it stays keyed up for almost all day.</p> <p>Mr. Henry Cole asked if it is possible that this is the marine radar or another system instead of voice radio.</p> <p>Tim responded that he thinks it is voice.</p> <p>Nik also responded stating that he cannot hear it, and the system will pick it up as interference because it is not P25 so it will not listen to it. He stated that without being out in that area and listening ourselves, he is not sure if it is voice, data, or radar.</p> <p>Tim stated that he does not see how it could be radar, quite frankly, because it would not be constant, it would be some kind of pulse.</p> <p>Paul stated that he reached out to some of the people he knows in the fishing industry and received a bunch of information on radars to see if that was the issue, and he sent the information over to Nik and his team. Paul mentioned that it is on different frequencies than ALMR, so it is not a radar coming off of the ships.</p> <p>Tim commented that he will check the international tables to see what might be allocated in other countries, and it could be they are authorized to use it but do not realize that when they are in US territorial waters, they are not authorized to use it. Tim suggested that ALMR might have to send a letter to the harbor master(s) and that might be the first step ALMR takes is a warning, and if they get the FCC involved, it could lead to fines.</p>	
--	--	--



*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: November 6, 2024

	<p>Nik stated that he would rather not get people into trouble just a warning.</p> <p>Tim noted that Paul could draft up a letter that could be sent out and that Tim can help do it. ALMR will address the spectrum that they are operating in is federally allocated, and whether it is internationally allocated that can be identified too. He mentioned that if they are inappropriately operating in international waters as well as US territorial waters then that is a problem. Tim stated that is what ALMR can do to start with.</p> <p>John noted that Fire Marshal Kyle Green has a question.</p> <p>Kyle thanked the Chair then stated that he just had a question, respectfully. He asked if he was hearing that there might be an action that the User Council needs to take with a motion to take an action such as sending that letter out or is this something that is going to be managed more locally by the agencies that it specifically impacts.</p> <p>Tim stated he doesn't know from the governance perspective, if the User Council needs to make a motion, but he thinks it is a general function of the operations management office and it would be something that they would do, regardless of whether the User Council set it as a motion, but that would be a normal action of the operations management office (OMO).</p> <p>Kyle noted that he just had some similarities to the motion the council made to put other agencies on notice, but that was more with telecom backhaul stuff.</p> <p>Paul stated that ALMR actually had contracts with GCI and their stuff was affecting the system, where this one is an outside agency and ALMR is going to just talk to the Captain of the Port and harbor master, so that is why there is a difference.</p> <p>John noted that Deputy Chief Keith Berrian had his hand up, so he recognized Keith.</p> <p>Keith commented that in the ALMR Daily System Status report that goes out, there is still a mention of interference issues on Birch Hill, which states it had been sent to appropriate authorities. He inquired if there is an update on that.</p>	
--	---	--



*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: November 6, 2024

	<p>Tim stated that the source has been able to be identified as a Spanish speaking transmission and, they do not know where it is coming from and they have had equipment up there where they have tried Direction Finding (DF) the signal but to no avail.</p> <p>Nik stated they have a pretty good idea, but it is not definitive, because the DF is a very wide range, he states it is somewhere between the left of you and the right of you forward.</p> <p>Tim noted that they are not sure if it is a result of sunspots or if they have some kind of atmospheric condition that carries the signal and then dropping it in the same area. Since it continues to happen it rules that out. He commented, however, the area was going through a heavy ionospheric condition in the 11-year cycle which would pick up a signal from a foreign country and pass it through the ionosphere then drop it at various locations, but again this is continual and is being picked up on the same site with its spectrum in the 138 to 144 MHz band. Tim stated that they have confirmed that it is not related to military radios or DoD military radars operating in that spectrum, and again the people talking on the radios have a Spanish dialect so it is very hard to locate. They did submit what they call a Joint Spectrum Interference Resolution (JSIR) report to the national level and they will update that report and request that they ask for FCC assistance. He noted that is all that can be done and if it is not a federal source, but it is creating interference the federal government agencies do not have a standing to enforce compliance, the FCC has to do that because they have the legal authority to enforce compliance, whereas the NTIA or the Department of Commerce do not have authority.</p> <p>Nik commented that to add into what Tim is also saying for those that don't know that once a report is submitted, it is not just a matter of, "oh it is submitted now they have to turn it off," but now there is a whole s investigation, and even though you had 10 teams with say 10 people or more do all this data gathering then they have to create their own team which has to do their own data gathering, which is not a fast experience. Tim added, unless they can be located and it is known exactly where they are at, then it is a much easier and much faster process, but in this case, it is not known where the signal originates from so it is difficult at best to enforce turning it down, and DF tools, even with a highly sensitive directional antenna, which is still pretty broad. He noted many years</p>	
--	---	--



*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: November 6, 2024

	<p>back there was an interference signal at R1N and he thought he had it isolated down to trees.</p> <p>Nik stated that it was ¼ of a mile off from the actual location, and that by using pretty good DF equipment, it was found in a building on the second floor in a small room.</p> <p>John noted that there is another question from Mr. Bobby Carter.</p> <p>Bobby thanked the Chair, and said he was just throwing this out there, and asked if any consideration has been given to look at satellite radio, because if he heard correctly, Nik and Tim were talking about voices that sounded to be Hispanic in nature and he is wondering if maybe if something is being picked up from satellite radio.</p> <p>Tim noted that typically a satellite downlink would be so far removed from VHF 138 to 144 MHz band, that it would seem improbable from a pure physics perspective.</p> <p>Nik commented that typically satellite radios can mean it has no range, but they can be anywhere from the UHF range up into the 234 gigahertz, so depending on the link type it is outside of the range of VHF.</p> <p>Bobby stated that maybe he was looking at the wrong band, but he was Googling things out of curiosity and said that satellite radios are broadcasting 136-to-138-megahertz range, and if he understands it right, that is in the VHF frequency range.</p> <p>Tim stated that it is.</p> <p>Nik agreed that those do exist, but they are far and few between and those are probably older radio types. He noted transmitting at that frequency to a satellite in space is going to require an ample amount of power, and it is not the best use of a radio, and an operator of that radio would want to aim for the higher frequencies. Nik went on to say that the other option that is being considered, if it continues but hopefully it dissipates, is to re-engineer a new frequency for that site, which would hopefully eliminate the interference.</p> <p>Bobby stated that it was good, and he thanked everyone and the Chair.</p>	
--	---	--



*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: November 6, 2024

	<p>John asked if Nik had anything, which Nik responded in the negative, and John asked if there were any other questions for Nik, hearing none, he moved onto the next agenda item State of Alaska (SOA) and DoD overviews.</p>	
<p>State of Alaska</p>	<p>Mr. Scott Stormo</p>	<p>Action Items Assigned</p>
	<p>Scott briefed that project wise, on the state project with Motorola, it is down to doing the installing of Juniper routers on the console side, and they just have to get some link testing with Motorola, which Motorola will then schedule somebody to come put the routers in and the state will be pretty close to being done. He noted the DoD side still has juniper routers to go in at their sites and the microwave to be completed. Scott commented that the state has installed two of the four 7705 units for the DoD, and the other two sites have state 7705 that has been loaned to the DoD in the past will be swapped out with the new 7705 the DoD has. He stated he is not sure why Motorola has not finished, even though they have been told it is a lot more fun to do that when it is summertime, but it is wintertime, and the state still expects them to come and finish the work. Scott commented that in theory Motorola will still be doing tower work here in the next few months if they can get somebody up here.</p> <p>Tim inquired if Scott had any updates on the tower ownership transfer.</p> <p>Scott stated that it is progressing, however, it has not been done yet. He noted the Fort Greely guys or the 59th Signal need to have a conversation between the end user and their commander to understand what that means. It means they are responsible for whatever is there, and Scott cannot tell them much because it is not the states, and he is not sure the state is going to build it. Scott briefed that to point out what caused it to be thrown back on the plate this week, is that Fort Greely dispatch called AT&T to say the tower light was out and AT&T said Fort Greely had to talk to the state, because AT&T probably knew how to look up in Antenna Structure Registration (ASR). He then stated that the state then received a call about it, which Scott stated that the state does not have that paperwork signed yet, because it is not their tower, so that drives Fort Greely to ask what they are going to</p>	



*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: November 6, 2024

	<p>do if they own it, what would they be responsible for, like fixing the tower light. Scott noted it is an interesting conversation.</p> <p>Tim commented that if they want to say it is the state's tower and the state takes it away, then Fort Greely is going to have to buy a new tower and put it there.</p> <p>Scott noted that Fort Greely knows it is not the state's tower and Scott mentioned to Fort Greely that there is cell companies up there and somebody is collecting revenue, which he commented that whoever is collecting revenue thinks they own the tower, so if it can be found who has an agreement that will probably help determine who should be responsible for the towers.</p> <p>Scott stated other than that, the state is swapping out a bunch of Ethernet cards on the state 7705, which is part of a life cycle refresh from old versions of cards and going out of support and needing new versions of cards to continue to update software.</p> <p>Scott stated that covers what the state has going on.</p> <p>John thanked Scott and asked if there were any questions for Scott, hearing none, John moved onto the DoD representative.</p>	
<p>Department of Defense</p>	<p>Mr. Timothy Woodall</p>	<p>Action Items Assigned</p>
	<p>Tim briefed that the only upgrade perspective is Motorola finally got out to JBER and started working on both the Transportable South (TAS) and Transportable North (TAN) doing the system upgrades and both are now TDMA capable. He noted that they still have some equipment on the dispatch side that has to come in, so it is expected that Motorola will come back and finish that. Tim commented that they found out that there are some issues with the antennas on the portable towers, so they are going to have to get some maintenance done on those antennas.</p> <p>Tim noted that for general information, which does not have anything to do with ALMR, but Verizon has been cleared to put six sites on JBER, so they finished up the coordination, which Verizon will have 6 operational sites for cell service, and it adds more towers.</p> <p>Scott inquired if Verizon will be putting up their own towers.</p>	



*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: November 6, 2024

	<p>Nik commented to make sure that Verizon’s towers are taller than R1N tower, so that nothing has to happen to that tower.</p> <p>Tim stated they are not using R1N and that he doesn’t know if he can do that. He noted that they found some Radiation Hazards that Verizon has to take care of, other than that there are no issues.</p> <p>Tim noted from the governance perspective, the state and DoD need to have in place some kind of financial agreement or policy with the SOA because the DoD is a third-party recipient of services to the SOA contract. Tim briefed that Congress in 2013 passed a law that allows the federal government to receive services or join with state and/or local government to share services, but in order to do that under 10 U.S. Code 2679 – Installation – Support Services (10USC2679) there has to be an Intergovernmental Support Agreement. He commented that they were trying to write their own agreement for a period of time that would cover this, but when they sent it through the Legal Office, they said no, and that it can only be written by the service secretaries who are authorized to enact Intergovernmental Service Agreements. Tim stated they are going through a lot of bureaucracy to get it done, but they are working on it and they will have an Interagency Service Agreement and as a third-party, which means that they are receiving services from a contract but they are not signatory to the contract, so in essence, they have no authority on the contract. He also went on to state that in a third-party relationship with the contract administrator, the contract administrator is responsible for paying for the services because legally they executed the contract, and they trust that in the third-party relationship that they will pay for the services received from their contract in a timely manner. Tim commented that in addition to codifying that relationship and providing a legal basis for which an intergovernmental service agreement is recognized as a contractual commitment, which means that signatories to that would be obligated from the fiduciary responsibility standpoint to comply with the invoice payment and also fund accountability plus other things. As part of the governance for working at the installations the Garrison Commander and the Wing Commanders for the Air Force will be getting some documentation from the Secretary of the Air Force and the Secretary of the Army level to concur. Tim noted that they will make sure that a lot of documentation will be sent out and they will be educated ahead of time so that this moves smoothly through the process.</p>	
--	---	--



*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: November 6, 2024

	<p>Tim stated that is all he had unless there were some questions.</p> <p>John thanked Tim, and asked if there were any questions for Tim, hearing none he moved to the next agenda item, which is the User Council representatives' updates, so he started with the SOA component with DOT, DPS, and all others.</p>	
User Council Representative Reports	Represented Areas	Action Items Assigned
SOA DOT	1. Mr. Henry Cole stated he had nothing to add.	
SOA DPS	2. LT Ben Endres commented he had nothing to add.	
SOA All Others	3. There was no update from this component.	
DoD US Army Installations	<p>John moved onto the DoD component.</p> <p>1. Mr. Eric Smith noted that he wanted to acknowledge the concerns for the Fort Greely tower not being accepted and he is working with their higher command, since there is definitely a misunderstanding who is responsible for owning that tower within the Army, what department or section is responsible. He stated that they are working with higher, and he will re-engage with his team to make sure that they are doing what they can to move that process forward.</p> <p>Eric stated that they are continuing their recruitment actions to get a LMR individual on board, but that is an over-hire and they are still pending approval by their higher command, so hopefully they will have that in place soon and they can do the recruitment action and get a permanent civilian that can be more involved in this team.</p>	
DoD JBER	2. Ms. Missy Hart from Elmendorf stated she is in for MSgt. Kayla Draves and she wanted to report that their first batch of flash codes came in for their TDMA upgrade, they received 12,160 of them, so they will be starting on that in the next couple of weeks.	
DoD Eielson	3. MSgt. Joe Rodriguez stated that about a month ago, they received about \$2,000,000 worth of fallout money, and with that, they were able to start working away at their TDMA upgrades, and he received word that they	



*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: November 6, 2024

	<p>have 230 APX6500s that should be in later in the week or early the next week. He commented that he is looking forward to getting those in.</p> <p>Joe noted that they have also hired a new civilian, who should be starting the beginning of next month for their LMR position at Eielson.</p>	
<p>Federal Non-DoD DOI</p> <p>Federal Non-DoD DOJ</p> <p>Federal Non-DoD All Others</p>	<p>John asked if any Federal Non-DoD components had any updates.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No representatives in attendance. 2. No updates noted. 3. Mr. Bobby Carter stated nothing for the good of the order from TSA, but he did note that Mr. Smith stated in the chat that he is online and has a comment. 	
<p>Munis-Central</p> <p>Munis-North</p> <p>Munis-Southeast</p>	<p>John moved onto the municipal components.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tammy stated she did not have anything for the good of the order. 2. Kyle thanked Paul and Mr. Dan Nelson for going to Fairbanks for the in-person training, there was a great turnout and lots of good conversation. He noted they did an after-action survey that received 22 responses out of the 60 attendees, and if anyone is looking to plan a local training themselves and want to look at the feedback from that he is happy to share, just send a message to his email Kgreen@alaska.edu. Kyle commented that the classes went great; the instructors were awesome; Paul and Dan did a fantastic job; super appreciative; and lots of good feedback and good continuing discussions there locally. 3. Ms. Erann Kalwara stated she did not have anything new to report for the whole region, however, she did hear from someone in Haines after the last meeting and that person said the replacement of the antenna on High Mountain made a noticeable difference in the radio coverage, so they appreciated that. <p>Erann noted that in Juneau they did receive a public bond initiative pass, and they have some funding, so</p>	



*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: November 6, 2024

	<p>investigation is ongoing, and they encourage any organization that believes it might be a victim to contact their local FBI office or CISA. Agencies across the government are collaborating, aggressively mitigating this threat, and are coordinating with our industry partners to strengthen their cyber defenses across commercial communications sector. He noted that it is a pretty innocuous threat warning, but the threat is extremely real, which over 10 different telecommunications companies in this country are now known to have been compromised by this, including some of the big ones like AT&T, Verizon, and Lumen.</p> <p>Bruce said, “So what do you do about it?” He noted as a consumer of a product or a consumer of service, there are some simple things going around that you can do, , just last week Apple came out with updates for the iOS for both iPhone and iPad, which he believes the current update is 18-1, but check to make sure your devices current. He noted that earlier in a council meeting, Paul mentioned that the upgrades come out from Motorola for dispatch consoles. However, those upgrades fix a lot of known vulnerabilities, but they only take effect after a reboot of the dispatch console takes place, and he knows when running a 911 center, the last thing you want to do is take down the dispatch console. Bruce noted that the vulnerabilities continue to exist until you go through that reboot process and so that is another simple thing you can do.</p> <p>Bruce commented that there were a couple of great discussions, and he really enjoyed that, but perhaps the maritime interference with the ALMR system or perhaps the unknown Spanish transmission interfering with the ALMR system, how do you really know when it is malicious, harmful, intentional interference versus just stuff that happens in normal life might not be self-evident. He noted that one of the things that is much better than the press release that came out since October 25th, the Congressional Research Service prepared a short report for Congress, it is an open source, and he shared it with John, Paul, and Mary and asked that they share it as they see fit, in the minutes, so it can be read whenever you want (website link - https://alaskalandmobileradio.org/security-announcements/), because it gives a little better detail into the implications for what this compromise might be and what people might be able to do about it, or at least just to be aware that it is going on.</p> <p>Bruce stated that the threat environment is very real, and just last week, CISA in conjunction with the FBI and with the</p>	
--	---	--



*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: November 6, 2024

	<p>Health and Human Services (HHS) Intel, held a meeting here in Anchorage for a bunch of the private sector partners that are providing critical services that support the DoD mission in Alaska. They are trying to get everybody to be aware this is an ongoing threat. He commented on what can be done to raise cyber readiness and cyber resilience, so agencies are less likely to be a target, and CISA does have some free services, that can be signed up for. Bruce noted that CISA has a cyber security advisor in the state, Mark Breunig, and now that the election is over Mark's time is a little more freed up to help agencies that would like to have support.</p> <p>Bruce stated that he appreciated the time to share that with the group today, but he thinks it is just really timely information that people need to be aware of.</p> <p>Tim commented that CISA's support last week with the telecom agencies and DoD, and what was found from the telecom agencies was they sent a lot of Information Technology (IT) communication guys and that it was really at the wrong level and the wrong audience to send, for the discussions that needed to be had, and the next session is going to be happening at the ports, so it might be a good idea for us to mention when there is interference with ALMR. It will be brought up and they will mention that to the port master when they are down there.</p> <p>Tim noted that as they are talking and moving through a number of sectors in the in the State of Alaska, examining from a cyber protection perspective, and talking about what the civil sector is doing, how DoD can help, and how CISA can help, but it is an area where everyone has to share information because everyone is in this together. On the commercial side, ALMR plays in that because it is one of the vital critical systems that has been identified in our key terrain areas, so it lists that NORTHCOM recognizes that the criticality of that from a public safety-first response primary communications capability and they also recognize that the SOA and DoD are very thin, if at all, with having any Primary, Alternate, Contingency, Emergency (PACE) capability in the public safety communications approach. He commented that in other words, there is a primary, but not an alternate, contingency or emergency approach, which is something that will probably need to be addressed, and think about what to do if ALMR, from a public safety communications response perspective, was taken out and how should it be addressed. Tim noted that a PACE approach for that, so these are just</p>	
--	---	--



*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: November 6, 2024

	<p>things to think about, and the way the world is right now, the probability that cyber will be the first level attack is very real.</p> <p>John said thanked Bruce and Tim for the comments as well. He asked if there were any questions for Bruce, or whether Bruce had anything else to add.</p> <p>Scott stated that he wanted to take advantage of the opportunity like he always does to mention, once again that there are many different ways that ALMR can be made more resilient and more robust. He noted it certainly makes ongoing upgrades and staying up on the current process a whole lot easier than periodic capital requests. Scott commented that the current project still ongoing, was installed 2021, and it is not far away from that being four years old and when it will start approaching the time when Motorola will start having difficulties patching it is already about time to start the fiscal year 26 state budget, and if there is not any conversation about money for ALMR in that, then it goes out to the fiscal year 27 time frame before it can be looked at for having money to upgrade to whatever the current release is. Then there's things like Dynamic System Resilience (DSR), so if the loss of one zone controller happens then things can roll over to another zone controller. He commented that ALMR is living in the past with what is done with radios, there is a lot that has changed over time that has not taken advantage of because it costs more money, it is not less money to enable some of those technologies and be more robust and more resilient, but the state has the multi-protocol label switching (MPLS) network, which is huge compared to what there used to be. Scott stated that ALMR used to lose a whole lot of sites when one microwave went down, but it doesn't suffer that in most cases anymore, but that by evolving to that type of technology it becomes a very complicated integrated circuit (IC) systems, which requires skilled people to be able to manage and take care of, which the state is very short at, and the DoD does not have any of it, and that is why the state helps them with it. Scott stated that they are really only one and a half people away from having nobody to do that and that there is not a vendor pool out there that is very easy to get to. This is his pitch for this, that the state is living 20 years ago, there is a lot that has changed, and the state has not adapted to that. He commented that the state is still using radios here like it used to 20 years ago, so there should be more people, and more money put into this to make a robust system and try to ensure it is the primary means of communication as long as it can be.</p>	
--	---	--



*ALMR User Council
Meeting Minutes*

Date: November 6, 2024

	<p>John stated that he copied that and thanked Scott very much for his update and noted the state will be talking more about funding some of the future upgrades.</p> <p>John asked if there was anything else under new business, and if not, he opened up the floor for questions or comments.</p>	
Next Meeting	Discussion	
	<p>John briefed the next meetings are currently scheduled for December 4 and January 8, since the 1st is a Holiday.</p> <p>John also thanked Bruce again for his time and energy, and stated the council appreciates everything that Bruce does.</p>	
Adjournment	Discussion	
	<p>John stated that the floor was open and that he appreciated everybody's involvement and at this time he would entertain a motion to adjourn.</p> <p>Motion: Adjourn the November 6 User Council meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Mr. Henry Cole</p> <p>Second: Mr. Bobby Carter</p> <p>John noted at this time, the meeting is adjourned and again thanked everybody.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.</p>	