



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



MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council

January 20, 2025

FROM: Department of Defense Co-Chair

SUBJECT: January 16 Meeting Minutes

TO: See Distribution

Executive Council Members:

Colonel Nicholas DeAngelis	Department of Defense – ALCOM/J6 (via teleconference)
Bradley Wayland	Assistant Federal Security Director- Mission Support (via teleconference)
Captain Gina Burington	Municipality of Anchorage – Anchorage Police Department (via teleconference)

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests:

Mr. David Reed	Information Systems Security Manager
Mr. Eli Barry Garland	Bureau of Land Management
Mr. Jeffrey McGuffin	Alaska Command (ALCOM)
Mr. Joel Butcher	City of Wasilla
Mr. John Rockwell	State of Alaska, Department of Public Safety
Ms. Mary Burnham	Operations Management Office
Mr. Nikalus Fahnestock	ALMR System Manager
Mr. Paul Fussey	ALMR Operations Manager
Mr. Pete Rogell	BK Technologies
Mr. Rob Ragadio	Motorola Solutions
Ms. Sandy Puckett	Federal Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Scott Nelsen	User Council Chair
Mr. Scott Stormo	Alaska Public Safety Communication Services
Mr. Timothy Woodall	ALCOM PM/COR
Mr. Trygve Erickson	Municipality of Anchorage

1. Call to Order. Colonel Nick DeAngelis, Department of Defense (DoD) Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. The roll was read, and a quorum of Executive Council members were present. Mr. Trygve Erikson, Ms. Sandy Puckett, and Mr. Joel Butcher joined the meeting after the roll was taken.

2. Opening Statements and Other Announcements. Colonel DeAngelis asked if there were any opening statements or other announcements.

Colonel DeAngelis introduced to the Executive Council the new User Council Chair, Mr. Scott Nelsen, and asked Mr. Nelsen if he would like to make a statement, which Mr. Nelsen replied that he had no statement at this time.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes. Colonel DeAngelis asked the members if they had a chance to review the November minutes and if they had any requested changes. None were offered and he requested a motion by other council members by stating their name and a second by stating their name to approve the November meeting minutes.

Motion: Approve the November 7, 2024, Executive Council meeting minutes, as presented.

The motion was made by Mr. Bradley Wayland and seconded by Captain Gina Burington. There were no objections or further discussion, so **the motion passed.**

4. Old Business.

a. State Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB). **(TABLED)** Colonel DeAngelis presented the subject and asked Mr. John Rockwell if there are any new updates on the SIGB.

Mr. Rockwell stated that there were no new updates at this time.

b. Long-term Cost Share Solution. Colonel DeAngelis presented the subject and asked Mr. John Rockwell if there are any new updates on the subject.

Mr. Rockwell briefed that there were no new updates and noted that the last discussion the council had was that the council was brainstorming different methodologies that could possibly be used. He stated that they were hoping to have something before the legislative session started, which will start on Tuesday 21 January, and they are unprepared to make any motions or suggestions at this time. Mr. Rockwell noted that he will defer to Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan for future advice on where they want to push this and commented that he would like to maybe suggest that he make a motion to also table this until the council has additional information since it has been out there for quite a while.

Motion: Table the subject of Long-Term Cost Share Solution until the council has additional information.

The motion was made by Colonel Nick DeAngelis and seconded by Mr. Bradley Wayland. There were no objections or further discussion, so **the motion passed.**

c. Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA). Colonel DeAngelis asked Mr. Tim Woodall if there were any updates to the Intergovernmental Support Agreement.

Mr. Woodall briefed that ALCOM has received a package for submittal from the Air Force, intergovernmental support agreement, points of contacts. He noted that Alaska Command (ALCOM) has completed that package, which includes a letter from the state requesting that an IGSA be started, and the package has been submitted. Mr. Woodall stated that ALCOM is waiting on Air Force installations and environmental; and Army G9 and MCOM installation command to do their coordination on the package, which is in process right now. He briefed that the step that follows is simply an approval process to execute an IGSA and the next step upon the approval, which is not anticipated in there being a non-approval, will be that ALCOM will then begin to pen the agreement. Mr. Woodall noted that the agreement, which he believes that ALCOM will provide a template for, will be up to the primary infrastructure owners: State of Alaska (SOA); Department of Defense (DoD); and Municipality of Anchorage (MOA), to craft, of which the state is primarily the contract administrator, the body of the IGSA. He stated then, for the state, he suspects it will be the Department of Public Safety (DPS) commissioner or deputy commissioner level that will be the signatory, but he does not know the timeline for the approval process and he does not anticipate it to take very long, so he would hope that the DoD and State of Alaska/DPS he and ALMR/SOA would begin to craft the IGSA in the next month or so. Mr. Woodall commented that was all he had pending any questions.

Colonel DeAngelis recognized Mr. Rockwell.

Mr. Rockwell stated that when Mr. Woodall submitted the paperwork for DPS to endorse the process, he had a nice discussion with both the commissioner and deputy commissioner, and they would like to sincerely thank Mr. Woodall for tracking this matter down and give Mr. Woodall their appreciation, they really appreciate all the work that Mr. Woodall has been doing on this and the follow through that they have been receiving has been what he would consider outstanding work. Mr. Rockwell noted that he just wanted to make a statement of the fact how much the state appreciates all the parties coming together to create this IGSA.

d. TDMA versus Non-TDMA Inventory. Colonel DeAngelis asked Mr. Paul Fussey for an update on this item.

Mr. Fussey briefed that, as everyone knows, the goal, as stated in the meeting minutes, is December 31, 2026, to have all the radios TDMA compliant. He noted that he and Mr. Nik Fahnestock, of the system management office (SMO), have been working with agencies and as of this week they have activated TDMA for Western Emergency

Services and Seward Fire Department, which are now using TDMA. Mr. Fussey stated that he and Mr. Fahnestock are working with a couple of the larger agencies, and he is just waiting for the approval from some police chiefs to activate their TDMA radios.

Mr. Fussey briefed that for the contract year, which includes July through December, the total of subscriber units are 32,677 and that is a large number that has gone up by over 900 since July. He noted that right now ALMR has 32,677 subscriber units on the system, which he thanked Mr. Fahnestock and his team for putting the information together for him, and if the council looks at TDMA, Non-TDMA, and the unknowns, which are the other brands on the system that they cannot tell if they are TDMA by the serial numbers, there are approximately 12,107 TDMA radios and that number is going up all the time. Mr. Fussey stated that he, Mr. Fahnestock, and the SMO team are working with agencies, which Mr. Fussey is personally calling, making sure that the agencies are getting the radios on the system with the subscriber count and that the radios are programmed correctly, because even though radios are TDMA capable they may need to have the flash upgrade that is needed to be TDMA compliant. He commented that the team has worked with a couple of different manufacturers and performed their acceptance testing on their radios to make sure the radios are TDMA compliant, and that the radios will work on the ALMR system. Mr. Fussey noted that if council members or agencies go to the ALMR website and look at the approved equipment page (<https://alaskalandmobileradio.org/membership/mobile-portable-console-and-aircraft-radios/>), everyone can see that the OMO office has added several radios on there in the past couple of months. This is so agencies can have different options for their TDMA radios. He commented that this completes his report.

Mr. Rockwell asked the Chair, Colonel DeAngelis, if he could ask Mr. Fussey a question, which Colonel DeAngelis replied Mr. Rockwell could.

Mr. Rockwell addressed Mr. Fussey and said, "quite a few months ago you had a spreadsheet that as you were calling and working with the different agencies, you tracked their response on the number of radios." Mr. Rockwell asked at the end of the time period that you gave them to respond, which Mr. Fussey had a large percentage but not 100% participation. If Mr. Fussey was continuing to track on that spreadsheet the number of radios that the agencies say they have and balance it out with the numbers that are being seen in the system.

Mr. Fussey responded that he is, and as he calls individuals, he asks them if he can still get their numbers. Mr. Fussey noted that on the spreadsheet that he sent out to the statewide interoperability coordinator (SWIC), he did highlight the agencies that did not respond or had not responded. He stated that as the agencies get new radios he is adding them and keeping that spreadsheet as current as possible.

Mr. Rockwell asked if he could get another copy of the updated spreadsheet, which Mr. Fussey responded to in the affirmative.

e. Fairbanks Rabinowitz Courthouse Bidirectional Antenna (BDA). Colonel DeAngelis presented the subject, and if there were any updates on this item.

Mr. Rockwell briefed that there are no direct updates, however, there is a large push to fund the project. He noted that currently the budget looks like it is around \$330,000 and previously that the SOA DPS was going to be able to move some money over to that, but DPS could not because even though they asked for it in a budget request it was denied. Mr. Rockwell stated that they are searching out a way to fund it, because it is a requirement that DPS deems extremely important for public safety and public life safety, so it is something that DPS needs to do but are waiting on funding.

f. Motorola Contract. Colonel DeAngelis asked Mr. Scott Stormo or Mr. Woodall for an update on this topic.

Mr. Stormo briefed that there are no real updates, and that his team is still engaging with the vendor and procurement on the procurement strategy on the way forward, so nothing more to share at this time.

g. Tudor Road Electrical Work. Colonel DeAngelis asked Mr. Stormo if he had any updates to this item.

Mr. Stormo briefed that ASPCS finally received the uninterruptible power source (UPS) batteries and that the batteries, which were the last ones that were short in their order, are all changed out, so the UPS system has all fresh batteries at the Tudor Road master site. He noted that the ASPCS team is now back to working with Chugach Electric to get the transformer changed out for the building and upgrade the power so they can provide some electrical service to the yard area. This started off as it was not going to impact the building then turned into it was going to impact the building that caused getting all the UPS batteries refreshed. Mr. Stormo stated that part of the project is now done, and the vendors have stated that they will be able to do the upgrade to the power outside the building. He commented that he will certainly be in contact with people before that happens, just in case something does go wrong. Mr. Stormo stated that he does not have anything further unless there are any questions.

Mr. Rockwell asked Mr. Stormo if there was a time frame when the electric company would be replacing that service.

Mr. Stormo noted that it is on Chugach Electric's schedule, and they have marked the yard, which is a good indication that they are moving in that direction, but even though they claimed they would be able to do it during the winter, Mr. Stormo has not heard any official schedule. He stated that with the winter storm that just happened Chugach Electric reallocated all kinds of resources in their company for the moment.

Colonel DeAngelis inquired if anyone had any additional questions or comments on any of the old business items, hearing none, he stated that completed the old business items.

5. User Council Update.

Colonel DeAngelis asked Mr. Nelsen or Mr. Rockwell if they could please update the group on the User Council.

Mr. Nelsen briefed that he did not have any updates on the User Council at this time.

Colonel DeAngelis thanked Mr. Nelsen.

Mr. Rockwell noted that the only thing that he might add is that the User Council meetings are well attended and that he believed there is an alternate position vacant. He asked Ms. Mary Burnham if she could update the council on which position is vacant.

Ms. Burnham briefed that there is a vacant position for the Southeast and for the Department of the Interior.

Mr. Rockwell also briefed that there are a lot of discussions about the TDMA projects and how agencies are funding radios. He stated that there is a lot of positive momentum, and many departments are going to be 100% TDMA while other departments are not. Mr. Rockwell noted that the state does realize that when you have common areas, physical areas, that people are talking about on the same talkgroup, it does default to the lowest common denominator, which is FDMA, so as the User Council is moving forward, they have a goal of December 31, 2026. He stated that agencies are trying to meet that goal, but the council has to be realistic that some departments, including, unfortunately, the Department of Public Safety, are not going to be 100% compliance for TDMA, but it is being discussed and DPS is pushing hard. Mr. Rockwell concluded that he just wanted to update the Executive Council that there is a lot of momentum, and the state is going to get as close as they can with that.

Colonel DeAngelis asked if there were any questions for Mr. Nelsen or Mr. Rockwell.

6. Operations Management Office.

Colonel DeAngelis asked Mr. Fussey to please provide the Operations Management Office (OMO) update.

a. Training and Outreach. Mr. Fussey briefed that Mr. Dan Nelson is the training coordinator and on the ALMR website, people can go to the training page where there are several training video vignettes (<https://alaskalandmobileradio.org/training-videos-2/>), and what Mr. Fussey and Mr. Nelson tried to do is meet the needs of all the agencies. When they do outreach they ask if there is anything in particular the agencies want ALMR to cover or create a video on. Mr. Fussey stated that with that in mind, he and Mr. Nelson have created a schedule, which is scheduled out to August now. He noted that the topics are: Cybersecurity; Anchorage Wide Area Radio Network (AWARN) versus ALMR, because the AWARN system, operates at 7-8 hundred megahertz, and the rest of ALMR is VHF, but ALMR works with the AWARN shop quite a bit, so one of the classes is what is the difference between the two systems; ALMR Governances, the User Council and Executive Council; Battery Basics, what it means as far as batteries, milliamps, how to use them, and how to conserve the batteries power. How does the Push to Talks Work, and what does that mean; ALMR Site PMI, and how Mr. Fahnestock and his team do an ALMR site preventative maintenance inspection (PMI); and then Interference. Mr. Fussey stated that is the training schedule they have

mapped out all the way through August, so each month the OMO is going to be adding another video and training vignette to the system on the website. He commented that he wanted to thank the other agencies that he has talked to, it was a big help because ALMR wants to make sure that they are creating the training that people need and want.

Mr. Fussey also noted that the January 15th ALMR Insider Newsletter has been completed and sent out, and as a reminder for everyone, there are several email distribution lists that go out from Ms. Burnham.em out, but they are printed out for and a hard copy is sent out to every Legislature in Juneau, and also to the state's three legislators in DC, so a hard copy is mailed to them in their offices.

b. Project Status Update. Mr. Fussey briefed that the team has been attending the bi-weekly project status meetings, which consists of the OMO, SMO, and APSCS personnel. He stated that on the update, the TAS and TAN, which are two portable towers, are both being worked on and Motorola is still upgrading them. Mr. Fussey noted that as Mr. Stormo mentioned, the battery upgrade for the Zone 1 Master Site has been completed, and also the R1 North, which handles a lot of the base communications. He commented that the battery replacement for R1 North has been delayed with a possible battery delivery date of 1 March, Mr. Jeremy Rose is the technician for the base and Mr. Rose has been keeping him updated on the project status. Mr. Fussey stated that once the batteries arrive for R1 North, it should be a quick turnaround to have those battery replacements installed. This is similar to what was done for the Tudor Road Master Site and the Birch Hill Master Site and their battery replacement. He asked if there were any questions before he continued on to the metrics, hearing none, he moved on.

c. December system metrics. Mr. Fussey briefed that the calls for December were 1,533,657, push to talks (PTTs) were 2,402,130, and the monthly busies were 210. When one starts looking at the calls and the PTTs, and then the 210 busies, it might sound like a lot, but it's 0.0001%, so even with that much traffic on the system, the system does not get very many busies. He noted that is thanks to Mr. Stormo and his team with the SATs and the microwave backhauls, and Mr. Fahnstock and his team with the PMIs, which are making sure the towers are up and running. Mr. Fussey stated that when looking at the sites below three 9s, the number of sites dropped last month from 13 in November to 4, which was due to 26 December, when ALMR did not have any power to the converter at Quarry Hill, so Hill 3265, Pole Hill, and Quarry Hill were impacted and ALMR had some issues with them because of that. He noted that thanks to the Fairbanks technicians, ALMR called them and they went up and reset that for us. Mr. Fussey also briefed that on 30 December, there was a failed generator at the Hurricane site.

Mr. Fussey noted that one thing he wanted to comment on and that he brought up at the User Council meeting, was that when anyone starts looking at the sites below three 9s and the number of busies, as he mentioned in the User Council meeting was that he keeps track of a lot of different weather stations and weather sites. He stated that they are scattered around and they are open to public viewing, but on the Chugach National Forest monitors, not this past winter storm, but two weeks ago with that windstorm, the winds reached 111 mph up in Turnagain Pass, and ALMR had Cooper Mountain,

Wolcott, and other sites that are close to there, and ALMR did get a few bounces on the system, but ALMR did not get any complaints. This past weekend at 1:00 PM in the afternoon on Sunday, that site reached 123 mph, which affected Rabbit Creek, Turnagain Pass, Wolcott, Cooper Landing, and in the Seward area. He commented that those are category two hurricane winds and the ALMR system kept on transmitting, and like he said, ALMR did get some bounces on the system for the signals, but no complaints, so he is very happy with what the system did.

d. 2024 Annual system metrics. Mr. Fussey noted that for 2024 through the whole year, for the individual calls there were 17,704,270, PTTs were at 28,797,304, and the busies for the year were 7232, and once again, when people extrapolate how many PTTs and calls ALMR had compared to the busies for the whole year, the system wide busies were 0.0004% and the sites below three 9s average for the year was 9.6, so he just wanted to say thank you to everyone who keeps the system running. Mr. Stormo and his team, Mr. Fahnestock and his team, military members who work on the sites on the military bases, he cannot thank them enough for what they do and also the AWARN shop, Mr. Mark Neuman, Mr. Jason Beach, and Mr. Trygve Erikson, and their team for keeping the system running. Mr. Fussey stated that was what he had for the metrics and are there any questions from anyone before he moved on, hearing none, he stated Mr. Chair, he will move on to the other items.

e. Other. Mr. Fussey briefed that he and Ms. Burnham are working on the end of the year reports, and that they are just finishing those up. Ms. Burnham will be sending them out to the User Council, and Executive Council, for approval, those are contract requirements, so look for those here shortly.

Mr. Fussey noted that he has already mentioned that ALMR has turned TDMA on for Seward Fire Department and Western Emergency Services, and the team is monitoring those, they are talking on TDMA with their radios, which is really good.

Mr. Fussey stated that the 34th legislative session begins on January 21st, so ALMR will be watching it and checking on the budget process, hopefully ALMR will get the money through there as Mr. Rockwell mentioned earlier.

Mr. Fussey briefed that he and Mr. Fahnestock are working on making sure that all the dispatch centers and all the agencies know, plus Ms. Claire Wittschiebe, with the SMO, has been putting it out in the daily report, that on January 22, the Zone 1 Master Site will be turned off for approximately 30 minutes. ALMR is going to be replacing a Nokia 7705 service router, which means there will not be any area wide trunking, but agencies can talk to each other locally near the towers, so it is something similar to what Mr. Stormo's team did over at Fire Station 12 a little while ago. He noted that they will get the preliminary work done the day before, and he and Mr. Fahnestock will come in at 5:00 in the morning, the same as what they always do when they do security updates, or zone control rollovers, which eliminates as much as possible interfering with the agencies or the dispatch centers. Mr. Fussey stated that they have emailed the dispatch centers multiple times and he has reached out to the agencies, and they are going to do that again before it goes down, but just to reiterate, the agencies can talk to each other

on the local tower, they just will not have wide area trunking, so that is why they are making sure that they are getting the message out to everyone, and then once that is back up, they will let everybody know. He stated that he and Mr. Fahnestock will come in to contact everybody, let everybody know that the master site will be down for about 30 minutes on January 22.

Mr. Fussey noted that is all he has and that completes his report, pending any questions.

Colonel DeAngelis asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Rockwell noted that he just wanted to commend Mr. Fussey, Mr. Fahnestock, and his group for the work that they do, to not just get the work done, but to communicate the work that is getting done is wonderful. He stated that he hears from dispatch centers all the time, and they comment that it is so nice that before ALMR does anything, the team calls them to make sure that the dispatch centers do not have any hot calls or anything going on, because the dispatch center knows if they do, then the work will be postponed and the dispatch centers really appreciate that the team thinks of public safety first. Mr. Rockwell concluded with kudos to Mr. Fussey, Mr. Fahnestock, and his group for that.

7. New Business.

Colonel DeAngelis inquired if anyone had any new business items they would like to offer up for the good of the group.

a. Cost structure – fee for service for the system. Mr. Fussey briefed that with the cost structure, the fee for the service to the system, it was talked about radio airtime, and as Mr. Rockwell mentioned, it is still being worked on with Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan, which is looking at cost for the radios and stuff like that. Mr. Fussey stated that they will continue on that subject later on as that information becomes more available, and with the earlier motion to table it, the group will work behind the scenes to get some more information on that for Colonel DeAngelis and the rest of the board.

b. Briefing of the Cyber Protection Team (CPT) with ALMR by Mr. Jeffrey McGuffin. Mr. Fussey noted that under new business, the briefing by the ALCOM Cyber Protection Team with ALMR is being presented by Mr. McGuffin. Mr. Fussey stated that he has Mr. McGuffin's information and that he can put it on the screen if it is approved by the Chair and Mr. McGuffin.

Mr. McGuffin thanked the council for their time and stated that he is at the meeting to discuss the nomination from the NORCOM Cyber Defense Working Group.

8. Next Meeting. Colonel DeAngelis advised the next meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2025. Please check your calendars and let Ms. Burnham know if there are any conflicts.

Colonel DeAngelis inquired if there was anything else anyone would like to offer at this time, nothing was heard.

9. Adjourn Meeting. Colonel DeAngelis stated that he would accept a motion and then a second from any of the council members to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Adjourn January 16, 2025, meeting of the ALMR Executive Council.

The motion was made by Mr. Bradley Wayland and seconded by Captain Gina Burington. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Colonel Nick DeAngelis
DoD Director of Communications, ANR, & ALCOM
ALMR Executive Council

Distribution:

SOA/DPS, Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan
USNORTHCOM/ALCOM J6, Colonel Nicholas DeAngelis
AFEA, Mr. Bradley Wayland
MOA, Captain Gina Burington
AML, Assistant Chief Alex Boyd
ALCOM/J64, Mr. Timothy Woodall
ALCOM, Mr. Jeffrey McGuffin
ALMR OMO, Mr. Paul Fussey
ALMR SMO, Mr. Nikalus Fahnestock
FBI, Ms. Sandy Puckett
ISSM/Security Manager, Mr. David Reed
MOA, Mr. Trygve Erickson
SOA DPSCS, Mr. Scott Stormo
SOA DPS, Mr. John Rockwell
User Council Chair, Mr. Scott Nelsen