



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



MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council

April 22, 2025

FROM: Department of Defense Co-Chair

SUBJECT: April 17 Meeting Minutes

TO: See Distribution

Executive Council Members:

Colonel Nicholas DeAngelis	Department of Defense – ALCOM/J6 (via teleconference)
Deputy Chief of Administration Gina Burington	Municipality of Anchorage – Anchorage Police Department (via teleconference)
Assistant Chief Alex Boyd	Alaska Municipal League (via teleconference)

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests:

Mr. David Reed	Information Systems Security Manager
Mr. John Rockwell	State of Alaska, Department of Public Safety
Ms. Mary Burnham	Operations Management Office
Mr. Mickey Flores	BK Technologies
Mr. Paul Fussey	ALMR Operations Manager
Mr. Paul Merkouris	BK Technologies
Mr. Pete Rogell	BK Technologies
Mr. Rob Hugi	CISA - DHS
Mr. Ryan Marlow	State of Alaska Department of Transportation
Ms. Sandy Puckett	Federal Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Scott Stormo	Alaska Public Safety Communication Services
Mr. Timothy Woodall	ALCOM PM/COR
Mr. Zachary Haas	Motorola Solutions
Mr. Zack McRae	Mat-Su Borough

1. Call to Order. Colonel DeAngelis Department of Defense Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. The roll was read, and a quorum of Executive Council members were present. Mr. Robert Hugi 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.

a. Paul read a notification from Assistant Chief Alex Boyd which stated: "April 17, 2025 will be my last meeting with the council. I have advised the team at AML that I am retiring effective April 30th and will be stepping away from my roles with the Alaska Fire Chiefs' Association and AML as a result of that retirement. Nils and the team at AML are working with the Fire Chief's association to designate my replacement. Please pass along my thanks to the council, staff, and member agencies for the opportunity to have served on the council. It has been a pleasure." Paul asked Assistant Chief Boyd if he had anything that he wanted to add.

Assistant Chief Boyd stated that it has been great, and he appreciated everybody. He also wished everyone good luck as he moves away, and he is sure someone will step in.

b. Ms. Mary Burnham stated that she needed to make a correction to the Agenda, stating that under Old Business, Section b. Long-term Cost Share Solution should have the notation that the item was tabled at the January meeting.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes. Colonel DeAngelis asked the members if they had a chance to review the January 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 January meeting minutes.

Motion: Approve the January 2, 2025, Executive Council meeting minutes, as presented.

The motion was made by Deputy Chief Gina Burington and seconded by Colonel Nicholas DeAngelis. There were no objections or further discussion, so **the motion passed.**

4. Old Business.

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

Mr. Rockwell stated that he did not have any at this time.

b. Long-term Cost Share Solution. **(TABLED)** Colonel DeAngelis asked Mr. Rockwell if there were any updates on this item.

Mr. Rockwell stated that he did not have an update at this time.

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 the State of Alaska (SOA) and the Department of Defense (DoD) have received the go ahead from the Secretary of the Air Force, Installations and Environmental Directorate to move forward in the drafting and development of an IGSA. He noted that they are working together to develop the framework for the IGSA, and that framework is drafted and they are now working towards parsing out responsibility to whomever writes what portion. Mr. Woodall stated that the framework is not final, it will be reviewed and as they meet, and it can be modified to match or meet what is required as they go through the process of developing the IGSA. He commented that the IGSA will provide for the SOA providing operations management services and infrastructure maintenance services for ALMR. Mr. Woodall briefed that the agreement would define what those services are, how those services are obtained, how payment is made, and it will go through all of those processes, and it will have the normal things that people would find in agreements, such as indemnification and hold harmless. He noted that the purpose of the agreement is to provide a procedure and a process that is documented, that is for 3rd party benefactors to contract services that the SOA signed for, which the third-party benefactor is a party who received services from a contract to which they are not a party that has signed the contract. Mr. Woodall stated that, as the SOA and DoD know, the Department of Public Safety's contract with Motorola Solutions, and with the delivery of operations management services, that the DoD and none of the other federal agencies are signatory to that contract, but they do receive benefit from it and also contribute to the payment for those services. He commented that the purpose of the IGSA, again, is to codify and legalize it, and provide the framework by which those agencies that are a third-party can receive services, provide funding to the state, and ensure that in essence, the IGSA will serve as a contract to be looked at in the same terms as a contract vehicle.

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

Mr. Fussey briefed that ALMR has been testing Time-Division Multiple Access (TDMA), and they have been looking for larger agencies to work with for functionality. He noted that they did turn on TDMA for the University of Alaska Fairbanks Fire Department's (UAFFD) radios and when they turned them on the TDMA worked perfectly, but UAFFD had to turn it off just because they are updating a few things. Mr. Fussey stated that some of the trooper areas ALMR did turn on TDMA, with coordination of their dispatch centers and their local command, for certain hours and sometimes a couple of days. He commented that the only issue they have had so far was with Western Emergency Services and once they turned the TDMA on it was discovered that the entity that programmed their radios put in the wrong frequencies, so they had turned the TDMA back off. Mr. Fussey noted ALMR will be starting that back up here again with them. He also stated they will be working with Anchorage Wide Area Radio Network (AWARN) for TDMA, so testing is ongoing. He stated that hopefully by the next Executive Council

meeting, ALMR will have more entities turned on to TDMA, and the Seward Fire Department has had TDMA turned on for about 5 months now, shortly after Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP) approval, and they have not had any issues and it has been working perfectly for them. Mr. Fussey noted that was all that he had.

e. Fairbanks Rabinowitz Courthouse Bidirectional Antenna (BDA). Colonel DeAngelis asked Mr. Rockwell if he had any updates to this item.

Mr. Rockwell briefed that the only update that he had was that the Department of Public Safety (DPS) submitted a supplemental budget request to the governor's office in early February and that they are still waiting for the legislative body to work through that process. He noted that the dollar figure that was submitted was \$450,000 for the BDA at the Rabinowitz Courthouse.

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

Mr. Stormo briefed that he had nothing for this meeting, but he thinks it is just more of a conversation between ALMR, SOA, and the DoD that they need to start talking about what our requirements will be for the following contract and what the procurement strategy will be.

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

Mr. Stormo briefed that the company that Alaska Public Service Communications Services (APSCS) has contracted with continues to work on some of the power panels that are on the outside of the building, and they are waiting for Chugach Electric to swap out the transformer. He noted that they do have the Uninterruptible Power Source (UPS) batteries all changed out, and that their generator failed last week, so they are in the process of getting that repaired by a local vendor, but he thinks the expectation is sometime this summer they will be cutting that over.

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. Scott Nelsen if he had any updates for the group on the User Council.

Mr. Fussey asked the board's approval to cover the update for Mr. Nelsen, the User Council Chair, since he is sick and Ms. Tammy Goggia-Cockrell, the User Council Co-Chair, is in another meeting. Colonel DeAngelis approved Mr. Fussey's request.

Mr. Fussey briefed that the User Council committee has two vacant positions, the alternate for the Federal Non-DoD Department of the Interior (DOI) and municipality Southeast. He noted that the User Council has a meeting on a monthly basis, and they have been discussing infrastructure, new technology, TDMA, and the SmartConnect testing, which has been very positive. Mr Fussey noted that the testing that ALMR has seen with the radios is positive. The State Troopers that have been out in Bethel and Kotzebue with SmartConnect have been talking with their WiFi and also their SIM cards all the way back to Mat-Com and Fairbanks Dispatch, which is the first time that has ever happened. He also briefed that ALMR has had updates from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) with cyber security concerns. Mr. David Reed has been performing Motopatches and upgrades with the consoles and ALMR has been reaching out to individual dispatch centers to ensure that they are getting the latest server security updates for the system. Mr. Fussey stated the last bullet is that the User Council has been discussing preparations in case of a Mount Spurr eruption, so Mr. Fussey, as the operations manager, has been tasked with creating a standard operating procedure (SOP) for all of the users and a rough draft was completed and sent out. He commented that on April 17th, the Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection (APIP) meeting's Alaska Volcano Observatory (AVO) briefing, was that their best guess right now is the likelihood of an eruption has decreased from March, but it is still possible. Mr. Fussey noted that was all of Mr. Nelson's briefing.

Colonel DeAngelis asked if there were any questions from anyone else at this point. Hearing none he continued on.

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 completing the training videos on batteries and will soon be on the website. He noted that ALMR has received a lot of questions from the field, such as: our batteries are not lasting long; what does it mean by recalibrating our batteries; and when you start looking at different mAH, like 1800mAH or 5000mAH, what does that mean. Mr. Fussey stated that since ALMR is answering more and more questions from the field, it was decided to do a training video regarding batteries.

Mr. Fussey briefed that he has been doing a lot of outreach and talking to other agencies, and the Seldovia Village Tribe, for their Barabara Heights Fire Department, are now new members of ALMR. ALMR have been working with them and their tribal leadership on what radios to acquire and updating their consoles. Mr. Fussey stated that the third of April was the Cyber Resilient 911 workshop at the state crime lab, which was hosted by CISA, and there were a lot of people in attendance, both in person and online. He noted that it was a really good briefing on the threats that are out there for public safety agencies and networks, and very informative for everyone.

Mr. Fussey noted that he attended the State Emergency Operations Center, River Watch briefing, which is a group that goes out and monitors all the flooding on the rivers in Alaska, specifically the Yukon-Kuskokwim (YK) Delta, but there is also the Kenai River, the Chena River, and the Tanana. He commented he attends the briefing see if they have any predictions that any of the ALMR towers might be threatened by flooding. Mr. Fussey stated that, at this time, it appears the towers and the SOA Telecommunications Systems (SATs) will be okay for the ones near the rivers, but obviously things can change, especially if there is heavy rainfall or an ice dam on one of the rivers. However, for right now it looks positive for river watch and he will keep the group posted as it goes along.

Mr. Fussey briefed that he attended the 2025 Annual Emergency Management Conference in Anchorage, and he just came from there this morning. He noted that he did a lot of networking, talked a lot to groups down in Southeast, and answered ALMR questions. Mr. Fussey stated that he also talked with some of the Federal and DoD agencies, State Defense Force, the DEC, and DHSEM. It was really good, and he answered a lot of questions on ALMR and where ALMR is at with TDMA and the upgrades.

Mr. Fussey stated that ALMR is also starting to track the wildland fire season and once again, making sure nothing is going to threaten ALMR towers. He commented that there were some large fires in the interior last year that came close to some of the towers, but he worked with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and their Public Information Officer (PIO) to make sure that their crews knew what was going on. Mr. Fussey stated that for situational awareness, there currently have been 23 wildland fires already this spring and six are still active as of yesterday, so he will keep an eye on that.

b. Project Status Update. Mr. Fussey briefed that the monthly Zone 1 off-site inspection was completed for January, February, and March with no issues and SmartConnect location push-to-talk testing is still ongoing. He stated that if there were not any further questions he would go to the March metrics, and hearing none he continued on.

c. March system metrics. Mr. Fussey briefed that looking at January, February, and March, the numbers on the slide, since our last meeting and the calls are 1,542,345, which is up from February; the monthly push-to-talks are 2,443,918; and the monthly busies are down 214, which is 0.0001 percent and a very small number of busies for our subscribers. He noted that the subscriber counts, which is how many radios are on this system, are at 32,426 radios on the system, if you look at DoD, there is 9877, State of Alaska 8570, Federal Non-DoD are at 1847; and local municipalities are at 12,118 and that gives us total 32,426 (including radios that the SOA and SMO have at their shops). Mr. Fussey stated that ALMR has been working with all the agencies and if they have radios that they need to get rid of, they have been submitting subscriber requests. He commented that ALMR does not want to exceed the number of subscribers on the system for the Federal Communication Commission licenses, so ALMR has received a few in and they are over 100 radios removed from the system since last meeting, many

are old XTS 1500s, 5000s that are replaced by TDMA radios. Mr. Fussey noted that the monthly sites below three 9s (99.9) has dropped precipitously from January, but there were some huge wind events they had to worry about and crews right now are out doing preventative maintenance inspections (PMIs), so he anticipates that number to go up a little bit just because all the work that is being done out in the field. He stated that the reasons sites were below three 9s were the microwave upgrades at Clear and Fort Greely; there was storm damage at Pillar Mountain and Women's Bay; and Goose Creek, Heney Range, Seward, and Sitka had their own issues like a PMI, commercial circuit issues, microwave work, and GCI emergency repair on the undersea cable, with a lot of that beyond our control, but Mr. Stormo and his team plus Mr. Nik Fahnestock and his team have done phenomenal work getting out in the field, getting out to these sites, and fixing it to get it back up to where it needs to be. Mr. Fussey asked if there were any questions about the metrics.

d. Other. Mr. Fussey briefed that this week is National Public Safety Telecommunicators week; the ALMR newsletter was sent out on April 15th; and on April 24th CISA is holding its undersea telecommunications cable threat briefing, which will be at the state crime lab.

Mr. Fussey noted that Mr. Reed, ALMR's security manager, completed all the Motopatching and scans, and the number has gone up this year for compliance from last year, which right now is over 90% compliance.

Mr. Fussey stated that Ms. Mary Burnham is working on the members' point of contact verification and preparing to set up the membership agreements. He commented that he, Mr. Stormo, and Ms. Burnham will be finalizing the cost share numbers for the Federal Non-DoD members.

Mr. Fussey also briefed that, as he said earlier, he is working on a policy and procedure for Mount Spurr, and he encourages everyone to go to the ALMR website and take a look at the Catastrophic Natural Event plan, which has a lot of good information in there and what he is working on now is just going to support it.

Mr. Fussey also noted that it has come to light that ALMR has an agency that has been on the system for a while, but they were on the Anchorage Wide Area Radio Network (AWARN) and that is the VA police. He stated that he is working with their agency and chief to get a new membership agreement, radio identifications, and talkshare agreements. He commented that ALMR had started getting emails and phone calls from an individual in the DC area that runs the VA radio networks. The individual reached out to him, and ALMR started looking at the VA police radios. Mr. Fussey noted that the VA Police are on the AWARN system, which is 700/800-megahertz; however, they do not have an ALMR membership agreement. ALMR is working on rectifying that issue and issuing them new ALMR IDs, but he just wanted the board to know about it and that ALMR is fixing the problem.

Mr. Fussey also stated that ALMR is working with the Customs and Border Patrol to update their codeplug and talkshare agreements. Recently the Custom Border Patrol

came on as new members on the Federal Non-DoD side and that ALMR is still working with them, getting all their paperwork in order.

Mr. Fussey commented that completes his report.

Colonel DeAngelis asked if there were any questions on any of Mr. Fussey's items.

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.

8. Next Meeting. Hearing no new items or comments, Colonel DeAngelis advised the next meeting is scheduled for July 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 April 17, 2025, meeting of the ALMR Executive Council.

The motion was made by Deputy Chief Gina Burington and seconded by Assistant Chief Alex Boyd. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Colonel Nicholas 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, Deputy Chief of Administration, Gina Burington
AML, Assistant Chief Alex Boyd
ALCOM/J64, Mr. Timothy Woodall
ALMR OMO, Mr. Paul Fussey
ALMR SMO, Mr. Nikalus Fahnestock
FBI, Ms. Sandy Puckett
ISSM/Security Manager, Mr. David Reed
SOA DPSCS, Mr. Scott Stormo
SOA DPS, Mr. John Rockwell
User Council Chair, Mr. Scott Nelsen