



ALMR User Council Meeting Minutes

Date: May 7, 2025

1. Attendance.

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

Primary				
T	Atkinson	Ross	Mr.	Federal Non-DoD DOI, BLM-Alaska Fire Service
E	Berrian	Keith	Deputy Chief	Municipalities North, Chena Goldstream Fire & Rescue
T	Cole	Henry	Mr.	SOA DOT
N/A	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
U	Kroona	Jon	Mr.	Federal Non-DoD DOJ, FBI
P	Nelsen	Scott	Mr.	SOA All Others, DMVA, Chair
U	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, SWIC
U	Smith	Eric	Mr.	DoD US Army - Alaska

Alternate				
N/A	Adams	Nathan	Mr.	DoD USAF, Eielson AFB
U	Brown	David	Mr.	Fed Non-DoD DOJ, FBI
U	Carter	Bobby	Mr.	Federal Non-DoD All Others, TSA
N/A	Clendenin	John	Mr.	SOA DOT
T	Edwards	Karl	Mr.	DHS, SOA All Others
P	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
T	Hart	Missy	Ms.	DoD USAF, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
N/A	Herman	Mary	Captain	DoD USAF, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
U	Higginbotham	Dave	MSgt	DoD US Army - Alaska
N/A	VACANT			Federal Non-DoD DOI
N/A	VACANT			Municipalities Southeast

Supporting Staff and Guests

T	Bolil	Walter	Mr.	Tait Radios
P	Burnham	Mary	Ms.	Operations Management Office (OMO)
T	Cook	Casey	Mr.	Mat-Su Borough
T	Farrell	Kevin	Mr.	Motorola Solutions
T	Flores	Mickey	Mr.	BK Technologies



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P	Fussey	Paul	Mr.	Operations Manager - OMO
T	House	Peter	Captain	Alaska State Defense Force (ASDF)
T	Long	Josh	Mr.	MC-Long
T	Marlow	Ryan	Mr.	DOT
T	McRae	Zack	Mr.	Mat-Su Borough
T	Merkouris	Paul	Mr.	BK Technologies
P	Neuman	Mark	Mr.	Municipality of Anchorage (MOA)
P	Reed	David	Mr.	Motorola Solutions – Security Manager
P	Richter	Bruce	Mr.	DHS - CISA
P	Rockwell	Evan	Mr.	Alaska State Defense Force (ASDF)
T	Rogell	Pete	Mr.	BK Technologies
T	Sasai	Richard	Mr.	Motorola Solutions
P	Stormo	Scott	Mr.	State of Alaska (SOA) - APSCS
T	Thometz	Tim	Mr.	iCom America
T	Ulrich	Naomi	Ms.	Motorola Solutions
P	Woodall	Tim	Mr.	Department of Defense (DoD)

2. Meeting Minutes and Action Items.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items Assigned
Call to Order	Mr. Scott Nelsen called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 1:32 p.m. He asked Ms. Mary Burnham if there was a quorum, which Mary replied in the affirmative.	
Roll Call	Roll call was presented by Mary. Mr. Henry Cole, Mr. Kevin Farrell, Mr. Pete Rogell, Captain Peter House, Mr. Tim Thometz, Mr. Timothy Woodall, and Mr. Walter Bolil joined the meeting after the roll was taken.	
Introduction of Guests/Special Announcements	Scott N. asked if there were any special guests, hearing none, he stated the council could move on to the approval of the meeting minutes.	
Previous Meeting Minutes	Scott N. inquired if everyone had a chance to review the April meeting minutes and if there were any requested changes at this time. Hearing none, he asked if he could have a motion and a second to approve the April minutes. Motion: Approve the April 2 monthly User Council meeting minutes. Motion: Mr. John Rockwell	



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	<p>Second: MSgt. Joe Rodriguez</p> <p>Scott N. asked if there were any objections or further discussion, and hearing none, he stated the motion has passed and the minutes are approved.</p> <p>Scott N. commented that the council could move on to the Issues and Risks Log.</p>	
Issues & Risks Log	Review	Resolution
	<p>Mr. Paul Fussey briefed that he had spoken with Mr. Timothy Woodall and Mr. Scott Stormo, then noted that the two areas on the log that are highlighted in yellow, have been on the log for a long time. He stated one was opened in 2019 and the other in 2020. Paul noted that he would like to have a proposal to close or remove items OP12 Core Microwave and OP13 DoD Microwave hops at EOL from the Issues and Risks Log. He commented that he would ask Scott S. for any information that Paul might be missing.</p> <p>Scott S. stated that they came back and re-peaked R1 North to Alcantra and they are able to monitor it, so there is really nothing else worth leaving these items on this list for.</p> <p>Paul stated to the Chair that he would request a proposal to have OP12 and OP13 removed from the Issues and Risks Log.</p> <p>Scott N. agreed and inquired if he could have a motion for that proposal.</p> <p>Mr. John Rockwell asked Paul if the council needed a motion to remove the items, and Paul replied in the affirmative.</p> <p>Motion: To remove OP12 and OP13 from the Issues and Risks Log</p> <p>Motion: Mr. John Rockwell Second: Fire Marshal Kyle Green</p>	



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	<p>Scott N. stated that items OP12 and OP13 can be removed from the Issues and Risks Log.</p> <p>Scott N. asked if Paul had anything else concerning the Issues and Risks Log, and Paul replied in the negative.</p>	
Action Items	Updates	Action Items Assigned
	<p>Paul briefed that ALMR is still waiting on Action Items number 1 and number 2. He noted that Action Item number 3 was set up at the last meeting by Mr. Woodall, who requested a step-by-step standard operating procedure (SOP) checklist for site owners in case of a Mount Spurr eruption. Paul stated he has sent out two draft policies and procedures updates for the Mount Spurr checklist on how to care for the master sites; the towers; and the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, and that is in addition to ALMR's Catastrophic Natural Event (CNE) Contingency Plan. He commented that he is still waiting for feedback, but a draft has been created and sent out. Paul noted that completes his report on the Action Items.</p> <p>Scott N. thanked Paul and asked if there were any questions concerning the Action Items, hearing none, he asked Paul to provide the Operation Management Office (OMO) updates.</p>	
Operations Management Office	Mr. Paul Fussey, Operations Manager	Action Items Assigned
Training	<p>1. Paul briefed that Mr. Dan Nelson is working on a training video highlighting the use of the Wi-Fi LTE functions on a radio, and Dan is working with Mr. Nik Fahnestock and his team on this training video. Paul stated it will posted to the ALMR website (https://alaskalandmobileradio.org/training-videos-2/).</p>	
Outreach	<p>2. Paul briefed that he attended the state's emergency operations center (SEOC) River Watch brief, which is going on right now. That is</p>	



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	<p>where the SEOC has their people out in the field watching the Yukon-Kuskokwim (YK) Delta, Kenai River, and other ones. He stated he attends in order to make sure that none of the ALMR infrastructure has the possibility of being threatened, which last year the ALMR tower in Glennallen came close when the Moose River flooded. but this year there are no issues anticipated near the ALMR infrastructures, so that is a good sign.</p> <p>Paul noted that he is contacting ALMR members for his quarterly check-ins, to see if there are any questions, concerns, and how the members radio upgrades are progressing. He stated that it takes a lot of time, but he wants to make sure that he reached out to everybody.</p> <p>Paul stated that he attended the Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA) meeting and that is to make sure that with the contract, certain meeting deliverables are met.</p> <p>Paul commented that the Subscriber Request form has been updated and it is now posted on the website. Nik and his team added a new section for Over-the-Air Programming (OTAP), so everybody can take a look at that. He noted that if members are not going to have OTAP, then just fill out the subscriber request like usual.</p> <p>Paul briefed that ALMR is working on turning on TDMA for more agencies and they have turned on TDMA for Western Emergency Services. He noted he has emails out to a couple of other agencies to work on turning on their TDMA, so that will probably happen in the next couple of weeks. Those agencies are finalizing some of their radio upgrades and ALMR has a couple more meetings with their IT teams and radio managers, so ALMR will be turning on TDMA for them.</p> <p>Paul noted that another area of concern, is that ALMR is tracking wildland season fires to make sure the ALMR towers and State of Alaska Telecommunications Systems (SATS) are not in danger. He stated that he has mentioned in a couple of other meetings, some of the state's wildland fires came close to the towers in the past, but currently there have been 49 wildland fires already this spring and five are active as of</p>	
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<p>Upgrades</p>	<p>May 7th, so ALMR is monitoring that to ensure there are no threats to the infrastructure system.</p> <p>3. Paul briefed that the quarterly security patch for all zones will be conducted in the last week of May, and he and Nik work with the ALMR Information System Security Manager (ISSM), Mr. David Reed, and all the dispatch centers to make sure that it goes smoothly.</p>	
<p>April Document Reviews</p>	<p>4. Paul briefed that the April document reviews included the Employee Termination Policy and Procedure; Facility Security Penetration Policy and Procedure; Emergency Operations Policy and Procedure; System Change Request Management Policy and Procedure; and the Outage Reporting Policy and Procedure and were all updated on the website.</p> <p>Paul asked if there were any questions for him before he continues on to the system metrics.</p> <p>Mary stated that there was a question in the Teams Chat from Fire Marshal Kyle Green which asked, "What was the policy document number that Paul said had OTAP updates to it?"</p> <p>Paul responded that it was the ALMR Subscriber Request form for when someone adds or deletes radios they fill out a the Subscriber Request form, which goes to the ALMR Help Desk, and he was just noting that the form had been updated and it is now on the website. Nik had added a line next to the Key Management Facility (KMF) line if someone has OTAP capabilities, so that is not a policy or procedure just the updated form.</p>	
<p>April System Metrics</p>	<p>5. Paul briefed that the calls for April were 1,508,110; the push-to-talks were 2,421,095; and the monthly busies were 357, and the sites below three 9s were 12, which is a little bit up from last year, but there were preventative maintenance inspections (PMIs) on Auke Lake, Donnelly Dome, Independent Ridge, Pillar Mountain, and Sourdough, which crews are out working on the PMIs. He stated that there were some commercial circuit outages at Haines and Skagway, and then Cooper Mountain, Divide, Hill 3265, Valdez, and Women's Bay had a couple of different reasons why they were down and those are listed.</p>	



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	<p>Paul noted that there are two new slides, and that this was requested at the last User Council meeting, so the new slides were sent out to the individual who requested them and to the Chair to make sure that the slides were acceptable. He stated that what he has been doing the last couple of months, during his brief, was breaking down what ALMR has for subscriber counts. Subscriber counts for April were 32,426 and previously he would talk about how many were local, DoD, federal, and state, but it was requested to have it broken up into zones. As a friendly reminder for everyone: Zone 1 is Denali Highway South up to and including all of Southeast and Kodiak; Zone 2 is Denali Highway North; and Zone 4 is the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA), which is the Anchorage Wide Area Radio Network (AWARN) system. Paul commented that ALMR has broken down, on the 1st new slide, into the zones, so State of Alaska (SOA) for Zone 1 are 5,957 and Zone 2 was 2,128, so DoD, local municipal, and then federal are broken down into zones as requested. ALMR created one more slide so that members can see the totality of subscriber counts per month and is broken down into the colors of each agency: blue SOA; orange DoD; gray MOA; and yellow federal.</p> <p>Paul asked the User Council members and representatives if the two additional slides looked okay, and if they are productive, because he does not want to put something out that is wasting individual's time, so any feedback would be appreciated.</p> <p>Scott N. stated that could be done now or it could be done through email.</p> <p>Mary stated that Kyle had his hand raised in Teams.</p> <p>Kyle thanked Paul for putting the slides together and that he appreciates it, and he stated that it helps him communicate to the stakeholders up in Zone 2, and he also thinks it will assist ALMR in some conversations that may happen in the near future with the state legislators as ALMR representatives are describing who is using the system and the totality of that. He also commented that he is still hopeful someday for a geographic representation, but he understands</p>	
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<p>Other Items</p>	<p>the limitations with that at this time, and he does appreciate the two additional slides.</p> <p>Paul stated that the last item for him is the "Other," which is sort of a catch-all.</p> <p>6. Paul briefed that David, the ISSM, has completed the Windows Motopatching report and they are working on a letter to dispatch centers for remote reboot approval for some consoles, and he wanted to thank all the dispatch centers and everyone who has been going through and updating and rebooting their consoles. He noted in the latest scan ALMR only had to send out 2 emails, so thank you to everyone their hard work and making sure the security patches are being upgraded with their consoles.</p> <p>Paul noted that Mary is working on sending out the members point of contact verifications in preparation for sending out membership agreements. If you did get an email from her to update your point of contact or to recertify your point of contact, please respond to her emails. He stated Mary has already started to send out membership agreements. Paul commented that he and Mary met with Mr. Scott Stormo to finalize the cost share numbers for the Federal Non-DoD members, and Mary sent out preliminary notices to those agencies.</p> <p>Paul stated that the DoD did conduct a generator and battery test at the Zone 2 Master Site, and the drill was successfully completed without any issues or complaints from the ALMR members. He noted he spoke to the dispatch centers and it went smooth, so with the new battery backup and new generator there, it was very encouraging for the ALMR master site, so if ALMR does get a power outage, the batteries and generators will be able to run.</p> <p>Paul commented that if anyone needs to reach out to him, he will be on PTO starting the 10th of May and he will be out of the state to the 18th, so please contact Mary or the ALMR Help Desk with any issues.</p> <p>Paul stated that the council has been talking about Mount Spurr and to note May is Volcano Awareness Month.</p>	
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	<p>Paul noted that this completes his report pending any questions.</p> <p>Scott N. asked if there were any questions from the group for the operations management portion of the meeting. He stated that hearing none he would move on to the System Management Office (SMO) updates. He stated that Nik is out of the office and asked Paul if he would like to fill in.</p>	
System Management Office	Mr. Nik Fahnestock, System Manager Covered by Mr. Paul Fussey	Action Items Assigned
	<p>Paul briefed that he spoke to Nik's team to get some talking points since Nik is on PTO this week. Ernestine tower has poor radio coverage reported by the Department of Transportation (DOT), so the SMO will be working on that, weather dependent.</p> <p>Paul noted that the team is also troubleshooting microwave issues between Valdez and Divide, there might be a little bit of outage for that one.</p> <p>Paul stated that for April there were 9 PMIs completed and looking ahead at PMIs to be completed by the end of June: 14 helicopter sites and 10 drive sites all waiting on weather and winter road conditions to clear.</p> <p>Paul commented that is all that he had pending any questions.</p> <p>Scott N. asked if there were any questions from the group regarding the SMO updates, hearing none, he stated the next item is the state and DoD updates.</p>	
State of Alaska	Mr. Scott Stormo	Action Items Assigned
	<p>Scott S. briefed that the state is getting close again to being done with the \$24 million upgrade, there are just two local dispatch centers that do not have Juniper routers put in yet.</p>	



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	<p>Scott S. noted that there are a bunch of antennas that are going to be replaced under warranty by Motorola, and they should be doing those over the next couple of months, so there will be outage notifications for those sites as their antennas are being replaced. He stated that most of them are helicopter sites.</p> <p>Scott S. stated that the state has people down on the south ridge that the weather is keeping them from getting up to the site, but they were down there to refill Tsina and look at that microwave problem. The microwave problem appears to most likely be a battery plant that has failed, so when there is a power bump the site drops.</p> <p>Scott S. commented that ALMR exercises the generators every week, and because that is done it was discovered that the one here at the master site failed, and it is because the team figured that out during a weekly exercise it was repaired quickly and is back in service.</p> <p>Scott S. briefed that the team has done a little bit of testing with SmartConnect and they have gone out with the Troopers in a few places and with an APX NXT radio to see how that works connectivity wise and depending on where they are it has shown some beneficial use.</p> <p>Scott S. noted that the OTAP, for those of you who do not know what it is, it is over-the-air programming that is done through the radio system. He stated he is not sure who all would be able to do that other than the SOA for state agencies, but if Nik was here, Nik would probably be able to answer this question, but he believes the DoD had OTAP from the very beginning. Scott S. commented that he is not sure if it is active or usable with all the turnover that has probably happened, but it is possible that they have the capability to do OTAP as well. He noted that he thinks the reason that was added to the Subscriber Request form is that there had to be a radio authorized for OTAP or something, so if they did not know that they would not have checked the box in the system when they configured the subscriber. Scott S. stated there is</p>	
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	<p>the potential if ALMR can figure out how other people can do that, then for example, if you have a local vendor that maintains or programs radios, it is possible ALMR could come up with a way for them to be able to do that remotely, rather than having to travel to those radios, so that could be a good thing if ALMR can figure out how that could potentially be done in the future.</p> <p>Scott S. stated that something else that the team has set up is FirstNet's rapid response, which is basically their mission critical push-to-talk on a FirstNet phone or the app that it can be run on, for example, a GCI phone with a cross-carrier license. He noted that the team has not tested all of that yet, but they have purchased some equipment and have it installed that will allow the team to patch ALMR talkgroups through to that cellular communication system, so it is a way of doing it without using the donor radios. For those who remember those conversations, that the cons using donor radios, which could be tying up channels at a site for a lot more conversation than would be happening if it was just using the radio system.</p> <p>Scott S. commented that other than that, unless anybody has any questions, he does not have anything further to say.</p> <p>Scott N. asked if there are any questions for Scott S. from the group, hearing none he moved on to the DoD.</p>	
Department of Defense	Mr. Timothy Woodall	Action Items Assigned
	<p>Tim stated that he did not have anything for the group from the DoD for this month.</p> <p>Scott N. stated he would be moving on to the Council Representatives updates.</p>	
User Council Representative Reports	Represented Areas	Action Items Assigned



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DoD US Army Installations	<p>this will also likely be his last meeting as he PCS next month as well.</p> <p>Tim stated that the outgoing commander would be fine, which MSgt Rodriguez acknowledged.</p> <p>Scott N. thanked MSgt Rodriguez for his update and stated that he will be missed. He also thanked him for his service.</p> <p>Scott N. asked if TSgt. Christopher Maley had anything to add and MSgt. Rodriguez stated that TSgt. Maley has already PCS'd and that Mr. Nathan Adams will be his replacement and he is out closing on a house right now, so he is not here today.</p> <p>3. No updates were provided.</p>	
Federal Non-DoD DOJ Federal Non-DoD DOI Federal Non-DoD All Others	<p>1. No updates were provided.</p> <p>2. No updates were provided.</p> <p>3. No updates were provided</p>	
Munis-North Munis-Southeast Munis-Central	<p>1. Fire Marshal Kyle Green stated that there was nothing to report from a beautiful day up here in the Interior of Alaska.</p> <p>2. Ms. Erann Kalwara stated that she had nothing to report from Southeast.</p> <p>3. Ms. Tammy Goggia-Cockrell stated that she did not have anything for the good of the order.</p> <p>Mr. Jim Goodman stated he did not have anything to add.</p>	
New Business	Discussion	Action Items Assigned



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	Scott N. asked if there was anything for New Business, hearing none, he moved on to the next item	
Next Meeting	Discussion	
	Scott N. briefed the next meetings are currently scheduled for June 4 and July 2.	
Adjournment	Discussion	
	<p>Scott N. stated that he was going to open the floor and asked if there were any questions or comments from the group at this time.</p> <p>Mary stated that Kyle had his hand raised in Teams.</p> <p>Kyle stated that he just wanted to note if any members are going to the 5x5 conference in Bellevue, to send him a message in order to link up with him. He also noted that additionally he was invited by FirstNet to sit on a panel discussion, which he does not have a lot of details about yet. He will be participating in that panel, so if anyone is going to be in Bellevue, he hopes to see them there.</p> <p>Scott N. thanked Kyle and asked if there was anything else for the good of the order. He stated that at this time he would accept a motion and a second from any of the council members to adjourn the meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Adjourn the May 7 User Council meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Mr. John Rockwell</p> <p>Second: Fire Marshal Kyle Green</p> <p>Scott N. thanked Kyle and John and stated that the meeting was now adjourned and thanked everyone for attending. He also commented that he wishes MSgt. Joe Rodriguez great success at his next duty station.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.</p>	