



ALMR User Council Meeting Minutes

Date: May 1, 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
E	Cole	Henry	Mr.	SOA DOT
T	Goggia-Cockrell	Tammy	Ms.	Municipalities Central, Vice Chair
T	Kalwara	Erann	Ms.	Municipalities Southeast
E	Kroona	Jon	Mr.	Federal Non-DOD DOJ, FBI
T	Draves (In Process)	Kayla	MSgt	DOD USAF, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
T	Nelsen	Scott	Mr.	SOA All Others, DMVA
U	Nelson	James	Officer	Federal Non-DOD All Others, US Forest Service
U	Rodriguez	Joe	MSgt	DOD USAF, Eielson AFB
T	Rockwell	John	Mr.	SOA DPS, Chair
N/A	Smith	Eric	Mr.	DOD US Army - Alaska

Alternate				
U	Brown	David	Mr.	Fed Non-DOD DOJ, FBI
E	Carter	Bobby	Mr.	Federal Non-DOD All Others, TSA
E	Clendenin	John	Mr.	SOA DOT
T	Edwards	Karl	Mr.	DHS, SOA All Others
E	Endres	Benjamin	Lieutenant	SOA Department of Public Safety
			Fire Marshal	
T	Green	Kyle		Municipalities North, University Fire Department
E	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
T	Higginbotham	Dave	MSgt	DOD US Army - Alaska
U	Maley	Christopher	TSgt	DOD USAF, Eielson AFB
N/A	Peace	David	Mr.	DOD USAF, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
U	Redington	Robert	Mr.	Federal Non-DOD DOI, US Fish and Wildlife Service
N/A	Dryden (In Process)	Josh	Sgt	Municipalities Southeast

Supporting Staff and Guests

P	Fahnestock	Nik	Mr.	System Manager (SMO)
P	Fussey	Paul	Mr.	Operations Manager
P	Nicholl	Jim	Mr.	Motorola Solutions



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P	Burnham	Mary	Ms.	Operations Management Office (OMO)
P	Newman	Mark	Mr.	AWARN
P	Reed	Dave	Mr.	Security Manager
T	Richter	Bruce	Mr.	DHS CISA
P	Root	Cheri Lynn	Ms.	Motorola Solutions
P	Hammond	Meg	Ms.	DPS (for Lt. Endres)
T	Rogell	Pete	Mr.	BK Technologies
P	Stormo	Scott	Mr.	APSCS Manager
P	Meinhardt	Bart	Mr.	City of Anchorage Fire Inspector
P	Noble	Maymie	Ms.	Motorola Solutions
T	Woodall	Tim	Mr.	ALCOM PM/COR

2. Meeting Minutes and Action Items.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items Assigned
Call to Order	Ms. John Rockwell called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.	
Roll Call	Roll call was taken, and there was a quorum of User Council (UC) members in attendance for the meeting.	
Introduction of Guests/Special Announcements	There were no special announcements or guests.	
Previous Meeting Minutes	<p>John asked the council members if they had a chance to read the minutes and asked if there were any questions, comments, or updates to the meeting minutes. There were no responses.</p> <p>John requested a motion and a second to approve the meeting minutes.</p> <p>Motion: Approve the April 3 monthly User Council meeting minutes.</p> <p>Motion: Mr. Scott Nelsen. Second: Deputy Chief Keith Berrian.</p> <p>There were no objections or further discussion. The motion passed. John thanked Ms. Tammy Goggia-Cockrell for chairing April's meeting.</p>	
Issues & Risks Log	Review	Resolution
	<p>John noted there was one highlighted item regarding the primary JBER representative and asked Mr. Paul Fussey if a letter had been received.</p> <p>Mr. Paul Fussey responded that the letter has not arrived, but it should be here shortly.</p>	



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Action Items	Updates	Action Items Assigned
	<p>John asked Paul if there were any updates to the action items since the last meeting.</p> <p>Paul explained that the only two items that are currently being acted upon are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. OMO to inform the ALMR EC of safety concerns of uncoordinated outages with GCI services that occurred on March 5 and to encourage the EC to communicate this with GCI. (draft letter prepared) 2. OMO to do outreach to other service providers (ATT, Verizon, MTA) regarding advance outage notifications. (draft letter prepared) 	
Operations Management Office	Mr. Paul Fussey, Operations Manager	Action Items Assigned
Training	<p>1. Mr. Paul Fussey stated Mr. Dan Nelson has been busy working on the May video, "SATS network," since requests have been coming in to learn how the microwave backhaul is incorporating into the ALMR system. He added that Mr. Nelson is also working with the website hosting company to update the ALMR website, because with the number of training videos on there now, categories will be subdivided to make it easier to find videos and create quicker loading times and hopefully, within the next couple of weeks, that will be incorporated. The page is in draft status now, but that will be updated.</p>	
Outreach	<p>2. Paul briefed that he virtually attended the statewide APOA meeting, that was in Fairbanks,</p> <p>Paul stated he had started his quarterly calls to all the member agencies for feedback on ALMR, for all 135 agencies. He advised the agencies to be asked if they have any questions and then a discussion takes place about TDMA/FDMA, what radios they have, any concerns, or are there any coverage area issues.</p> <p>Paul and the SMO have been planning to perform the ATP testing on the Tait TP 9400 portables that arrived.</p> <p>Paul and the SMO have confirmed the JVC Kenwood team will be in Anchorage to conduct ATP testing for their VM 8000 radios the week of August 19.</p> <p>On April 25, Paul was asked by the Fire and Life Safety Division and Department of Public Safety to give a presentation on BDAs. He talked to the fire code officials throughout the State of Alaska (SOA) regarding ALMR and BDA Systems. Paul noted that when he attended the IWCE meeting last month, due to the NFPA changes and updates, more BDAs are being added and/or required. He briefed that</p>	



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<p>Upgrades</p>	<p>the ALMR OMO, and SMO offices and Mr. Scott Stormo's office are keeping track of and attempting to track down where BDAs are located and answering questions regarding BDAs. Paul also invited Fire Inspector Bart Meinhardt from the City of Anchorage to attend today's meeting.</p> <p>With the assistance of Mr. David Reed, who printed a list of members, the OMO and SMO personnel contacted agencies yesterday and will continue to make more phone calls this week to remind members to reboot their consoles for the latest MotoPatch update, which included DoD, state, and municipalities. Every month there are fewer agencies that are turning up in the red. Mr. Fussey thanked Mr. Mark Neuman from the Municipality of Anchorage for his assistance with the reboot to all the systems that are in Zone 4.</p> <p>3. Paul briefed that the Motorola team arrived, and work is proceeding as expected with Juniper routers and other upgrades and the firewall expected to be completed by September</p> <p>Paul stated the SMO team had conducted 15 PMIs and site inspections since January and crews are currently in the Fairbanks area.</p>	
<p>April Document Reviews</p>	<p>4. Paul stated that no document reviews are due for May, but the Membership Agreement was upgraded and will be sent out as the cost share is completed. He noted the DoD agreements have already been sent. Paul advised the other document reviews completed were Employee Termination Policy and Procedure; Facility Security Penetration Policy and Procedure; Emergency Operations Policy and Procedure; System Change Request (CR) Management Policy and Procedure; Outage Reporting Policy and Procedure.</p>	
<p>April System Metrics</p>	<p>5. Paul briefed there were 1,420,666 calls and the push to talks were 2,355,311. He also stated that the busies were similar to last month at 458.</p> <p>Paul briefed the sites below three nines were at 11, and they were the result of four PMIs, the installation of a Juniper router, a microwave backhaul, one microwave work, and four GCI circuit issues with two of those related to a power outage.</p> <p>Paul explained another hiccup occurred this morning around 6:30 am, with the GCI circuit for the Kodiak area, which was on Women's Bay. He briefed, with the impacts to the GCI circuits, the reason the letter had not been sent out as finalized is because there are still issues and that information is being updated and that a conversation took place this morning with GCI about this issue.</p>	



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Other Items	<p>6. Paul reminded the group that Memorial Day is May 27.</p> <p>Paul explained that the OMO is going through all the old change requests, talking to other entities, and updating the BDA database with information on who is the agency responsible, and seeing if there are photos or schematics that can be found. He explained that ALMR wants to ensure there is accurate documentation and that one BDA system is not interrupting or conflicting with another.</p> <p>Paul stated that May 1 is the ten-year anniversary when Sergeant Scott Johnson and Trooper Gabe Rich were killed in the line of duty in Tanana.</p> <p>Mr. Rockwell requested any additional questions or comments from the group, for which there were none.</p>	
System Management Office	Mr. Nik Fahnestock, System Manager	Action Items Assigned
PMI	<p>Mr. Nik Fahnestock noted that his team is up north performing the PMIs, which will increase during the summer months. He also stated that if there are any users that are experiencing problems, whether it is with radios, connectivity, talking, etc., no matter how small, please reach out and let us know so it can be investigated to figure out what is potentially happening, such as circuit, site, or radio issues.</p> <p>John asked if there were any questions for Nik, which there were none, and thanked Nik for running such a great shop.</p>	
State of Alaska	Mr. Scott Stormo	Action Items Assigned
	<p>Mr. Scott Stormo briefed it was a rough winter and so far, there have been three microwave shots that did not look as good as they used to look, and as they were viewed to see what happened, it appeared in one instance the dish was damaged probably from falling ice and the other two instances the dishes had the metal torn out, which could have been either broken off the stiff arm from the back or the metal was ripping. He stated unfortunately, it takes about four months to get the dishes, which are on order, and once here those will get replaced as soon as they come in. Scott noted this has been causing some bouncing down in the Kenai area and it is projected the summer will be busy.</p> <p>John asked if there were any questions, which there were none.</p>	
Department of Defense	Mr. Timothy Woodall	Action Items Assigned



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	John called for updates from the DoD, and Mr. Timothy Woodall stated there were no updates.	
User Council Representative Reports	Represented Areas	Action Items Assigned
SOA DOT	1. John requested updates from DOT, and there was no response.	
SOA DPS	2. John requested updates from DPS, and Ms. Meg Hammond stated, on Lt. Ben Endres' behalf, there were none.	
SOA All Others	3. John requested updates from all others and Mr. Scott Nelsen said there were none.	
DoD US Army Installations	1. Mr. Rockwell requested updates from the DoD component, starting with the U.S. Army and MSgt David Higginbotham stated there are no updates.	
DoD JBER	2. Mr. Rockwell requested updates from JBER and there was no response from the representative.	
DOD Eielson	3. Mr. Rockwell requested updates from Eielson and there was no response from the representative	
Federal Non-DoD DOI	Mr. Rockwell requested updates from the Federal Non-DoD, DOI, DOJ, and all others and there were no responses from any of the representatives.	
Federal Non-DoD DOJ		
Federal Non-DoD All Others		
Munis-Central	1. Ms. Tammy Goggia-Cockrell had no updates.	
Munis-North	2. Deputy Chief Keith Berrian stated most of his ALMR time the last week or two has been dealing with an issue that he will bring up under new business, which he has a motion for the group today. Fire Marshal Kyle Green had nothing to update.	
Munis-Southeast	3. Lt. Erann Kalwara had no updates.	
New Business	Discussion	Action Items Assigned
Non-TDMA Radio Usage	1. John moved to New Business and opened the floor to Deputy Chief Berrian.	



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	<p>Keith stated that the issue/concern is the downward spiral heading towards the 2026 deadline for getting all members over to TDMA and there is a fair number of radios that are coming available on surplus and a couple of organizations that are running 1500s, which are unreliable, but a bunch of Motorola 5000s have become available. He stated the original plan was to do a transfer on some of the Motorola 5000; however, they were deactivated off the system so the wanted to find a way to allow agencies to use non-TDMA radios that they have in their possession up until the deadline.</p> <p>Deputy Chief Berrian made the following motion:</p> <p>MOTION: Move that the ALMR User Council request that a policy be implemented to allow Users to replace non-TDMA Radios with another non-TDMA radio as the replaced radio would have to be removed from the system, so there is no net gain in the number of non-TDMA radios on the ALMR system. This would only be allowed until the official cut-off date for non-TDMA radios on the ALMR system. Any radio involved would have to be previously active on the ALMR system.</p> <p>This change is intended to allow users to replace non-functional radios or upgrade older non-TDMA radios to more current non-TDMA radios.</p> <p>MOTION: John SECOND: Keith</p> <p>John stated the motion was on the floor and he opened the floor for discussion.</p> <p>Keith stated if they break, they could replace it or if they have one that they could upgrade, this will not add to our numbers, it will just maintain them, because there are some organizations that could benefit from changing some equipment out.</p> <p>Fire Marshal Kyle Green noted that he and Keith discussed this and wanted to put this on the record. One of his concerns was that there is a hole in the policy regarding allowing transfers to occur with FDMA radios potentially through the 2026 deadline and this motion accommodates those users that have justifiable replacement needs who might not have the funding yet.</p> <p>Tammy asked for Paul and Nik to please weigh in.</p>	
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	<p>Paul stated he was aware of the situation and as part of the support staff to the User Council, he will be on board with whatever the User Council decides.</p> <p>Nik agreed with Paul, but explained one of the potential issues is if it is pushed down the road, whether it is a no net gain or not, the system will be limited to the lowest common denominator, in this case, regardless of the scenario, which is FDMA and that it takes just one radio to ruin it for the rest. John also noted the endorsement of this is something that the group needs to be cognizant of for the FDMA/TDMA switchover, which will benefit all.</p> <p>Scott Stormo. stated another benefit could be that if this policy allowed members to remove non-TDMA radios kept as spares on the system, which will provide a more accurate representation of TDMA radios and later, if needed, they could put a non-TDMA radio back on, instead of leaving them active on the system. He explained that right now, because of the potential fear that if they need them, they will not be able to put them back on and this would help Paul's efforts to get entities to remove the non-TDMA radios from the system, and the members can retain them, in case, up to the deadline. Scott Stormo explained that the intent of this was not to buy a new radio that is not TDMA capable, but if you need to reutilize an existing radio it is possible.</p> <p>Mr. Scott Nelsen noted he is in favor of encouraging people to take any spares off the system, so a more accurate count and representation of how many radios are being used.</p> <p>John thanked Scott Nelsen for that note of endorsement and stated if there is a radio sitting in the closet not being used or not going to be used, this will help start spring cleaning.</p> <p>Scott Nelsen inquired after reading the intention of the change allowing users to replace nonfunctional radios or upgrade older non-TDMA radios to more current non-TDMA radios, but not buying another non-TDMA radio for the arsenal, if that was correct.</p> <p>John deferred to Keith who responded that his intention was to write language that states the radios that exist in the system right now or have existed on the system could be reused on the system as long as we are not adding to the FDMA numbers by buying radios from outside the state of Alaska and adding it in to the system. Keith stated it is just a case of right now for those that have forward budgeted enough are getting TDMA radios in and there is an excess of FDMA radios that could be given to organizations that could better use the excess in place of what they are currently using. He added in the case that was specifically brought</p>	
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<p>BDA Tracking</p>	<p>forward, there is a pile of about roughly 30 Motorola 5000s that could be used to replace Motorola 1500s in an organization in the Fairbanks area.</p> <p>Scott Nelsen replied that he understands it sounds like he could take his older non-TDMA radios off the network and add brand new non-TDMA radios, which would be foolhardy, but it sounds like he could do that.</p> <p>Keith noted that he put the caveat in the motion that the replaced radio would have to have been previously active on the ALMR system.</p> <p>John asked Scott Nelsen if he had any other questions, and Scott Nelsen said Keith's last comment answered his questions.</p> <p>Scott Stormo noted again that you can reutilize radios that people have had on the system, now they got upgrades, but you cannot buy a new one that is not TDMA and put it on the system.</p> <p>Scott Nelsen stated that is why he wanted to clarify the motion since the transition to TDMA is happening one way or the other.</p> <p>John asked if there were any other questions, comments, or concerns, and hearing none, he stated he appreciated everybody's participation in the discussion. He wanted to get a quick view of how the vote would go to see if an actual vote by numbers, so he asked if anybody would vote "no" to this proposal, hearing no response, he checked with Paul and Ms. Burnham if he could accept that as a motion to approve and Paul said John could.</p> <p>The motion has been approved.</p> <p>2. John stated the floor was still open for new business and Fire Inspector Bart Meinhardt introduced himself and stated he is responsible for reviewing fire prevention and fire system plans, which includes when a new BDA has come into Anchorage. He noted the last BDA installed in Anchorage was in 2009 at the airport, which now has four to six BDAs that he is aware of at the airport area between the North and South terminals. He noted there is a BDA at the Nesbett Courthouse and the Cook Inlet Pretrial, so there are few in Anchorage, but there is one additional one possibly coming in the next couple to three years. Fire Inspector Meinhardt added there may be a couple high-rise buildings coming downtown, but with construction progress in Anchorage, there is little activity on that side, and there have not been any complaints of Anchorage radio coverage issues. He</p>	
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<p>CISA Update</p>	<p>stated the State of Alaska is currently in the process of adopting the 2024 IFC (International Fire Code) requirements and the city will not look at that until sometime this fall for starting the process for adoption and that will bring in the new NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) as the 2022 edition of NFPA 1225, the standard for emergency services communications into the reference standards out there. Fire Inspector Meinhardt advised that as buildings are evaluated, a re-evaluation may start of a few of the larger buildings, but they do not expect much change in the system in Anchorage.</p> <p>John asked if there are any questions regarding the BDA topic, where the BDAs are in Anchorage, and what the plan is for the future regarding new fire codes.</p> <p>Scott Stormo and Mr. Mark Neuman had a brief discussion about the frequencies supported by the current BDAs at the airport and the courthouse.</p> <p>Scott Stormo noted from what was seen online, permission from the license holder is needed if a BDA is being installed, and a process is not in place to make sure it happens, other than asking people to do a change order if they do. He added that the only point he will make is that if a BDA is being put in, vendors need to be made aware that they should be getting permission from the frequency holder.</p> <p>John noted Mr. Bruce Richter had his hand up, so he opened the floor to him.</p> <p>3. Mr. Bruce Richter stated he had two items he wanted to share, and the first one was to thank the ALMR team for their support last month during the FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Region 10 three-day rehearsal concept exercise for a future 1964 earthquake scenario in South Central, Alaska. He noted that Paul, Scott Stormo, and Nik had attended and participated in the opening morning of the event and that Emergency Management from Kodiak, Valdez, Anchorage, Soldotna, and Kenai Borough were all participants. Bruce pointed out that everybody had their eyes opened to what a powerful tool ALMR would be to coordinate some of the emergency response if the scenario, where FEMA Region 10 and State of Alaska Division of Emergency Management are trying to coordinate help in the state and region.</p> <p>Bruce also passed on s kudos for the ALMR User training videos on the website. He shared a link to the videos with team members back at the national headquarters in Arlington and received great feedback on how user friendly and informative they were and passed on that it was a great job to the team that put them together.</p>	
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Next Meeting	Discussion	
	John stated the next meetings are currently scheduled for June 5 and July 3.	
Adjournment	Discussion	
	<p>John stated he would entertain a motion for adjournment.</p> <p>Motion: Adjourn the May 1 User Council meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Keith Second: Tammy</p> <p>There were no objections or further discussion and the motion passed.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.</p>	