



## *ALMR User Council Meeting Minutes*

*Date: March 5, 2025*

### 1. Attendance.

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

Primary				
U	Atkinson	Ross	Mr.	Federal Non-DoD DOI, BLM-Alaska Fire Service
T	Berrian	Keith	Deputy Chief	Municipalities North, Chena Goldstream Fire & Rescue
T	Cole	Henry	Mr.	SOA DOT
E	Draves	Kayla	MSgt	DoD USAF, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
T	Goggia-Cockrell	Tammy	Ms.	Municipalities Central, <b>Vice Chair</b>
T	Kalwara	Erann	Ms.	Municipalities Southeast, Juneau PD
T	Kroona	Jon	Mr.	Federal Non-DoD DOJ, FBI
T	Nelsen	Scott	Mr.	SOA All Others, DMVA, <b>Chair</b>
E	Nelson	James	Officer	Federal Non-DoD All Others, US Forest Service
T	Rodriguez	Joe	MSgt	DoD USAF, Eielson AFB
T	Rockwell	John	Mr.	SOA DPS, SWIC
E	Smith	Eric	Mr.	DoD US Army - Alaska

Alternate				
N/A	Brown	David	Mr.	Fed Non-DoD DOJ, FBI
T	Carter	Bobby	Mr.	Federal Non-DoD All Others, TSA
T	Clendenin	John	Mr.	SOA DOT
T	Edwards	Karl	Mr.	DHS, SOA All Others
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
N/A	Herman	Mary	Captain	DoD USAF, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
T	Higginbotham	Dave	MSgt	DoD US Army - Alaska
N/A	Maley	Christopher	TSgt	DoD USAF, Eielson AFB
N/A	<b>VACANT</b>			Federal Non-DoD DOI
N/A	<b>VACANT</b>			Municipalities Southeast

### Supporting Staff and Guests

T	Adams	Nathan	Mr.	DoD USAF, Eielson AFB
T	Barry-Garland	Eli	Mr.	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
P	Burnham	Mary	Ms.	Operations Management Office (OMO)
T	Christensen	Marty	Mr.	JVC Kenwood
T	Day	Stacey	Ms.	City of Kenai
P	Fahnestock	Nikolas	Mr.	Bering Straits IT (BSIT) - SMO



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T	Flores	Mickey	Mr.	BK Technologies
P	Fussey	Paul	Mr.	Operations Manager - OMO
T	Hart	Missy	Ms.	JBER
T	Jones	Ryan	SPC	Army National Guard
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)
T	Rambo	Rikk	Mr.	DEA
P	Reed	David	Mr.	Motorola Solutions – Security Manager
P	Richter	Bruce	Mr.	DHS - CISA
T	Roberts	Scott	Mr.	Alaska Railroad
P	Rogell	Pete	Mr.	BK Technologies
T	Rose	Teresa	Ms.	State of Alaska (SOA)
P	Rowland	Clint	Mr.	BK Technologies
T	Stormo	Scott	Mr.	State of Alaska (SOA) - DPSCS
P	Woodall	Tim	Mr.	Department of Defense (DoD)

### 2. Meeting Minutes and Action Items.

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action Items Assigned</b>
<b>Call to Order</b>	Mr. Scott Nelsen called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 1:30 p.m.	
<b>Roll Call</b>	Roll call was presented by Ms. Mary Burnham, and there was a quorum of User Council (UC) members in attendance for the meeting.  Mr. Jon Kroona, Mr. Bruce Richter, Mr. Scott Stormo, Mr. Timothy Woodall, and Mr. Marty Christensen joined the meeting after the roll was taken.	
<b>Introduction of Guests/Special Announcements</b>	Scott N. asked if there were any special guests.  Mr. Paul Fussey introduced the two guests that were in the room, which were Mr. Pete Rogell and Mr. Clint Rowland, with BK Technology.  Scott N. thanked them for joining the meeting in person.	
<b>Previous Meeting Minutes</b>	Scott N. proceeded to the next agenda item and inquired if everyone had a chance to read the February meeting minutes or had any requested changes. Hearing none, he asked if he could have a motion and a second to approve the February minutes.	



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	<p><b>Motion: Approve the February 5 monthly User Council meeting minutes.</b></p> <p><b>Motion: Mr. John Rockwell</b> <b>Second: Fire Marshal Kyle Green</b></p> <p>Scott N. asked if there are any objections or further discussion, and hearing none, he stated the motion has passed, and the minutes were approved.</p> <p>Scott N. commented that the council could move on to the Issues and Risks Log.</p>	
<b>Issues &amp; Risks Log</b>	<b>Review</b>	<b>Resolution</b>
	<p>Paul briefed that there was one update. Mr. Jeremy Rose, who is the representative for Motorola on base, informed Paul that for the R1N battery plant, the batteries are onsite, and Motorola will be replacing the batteries on February 6<sup>th</sup> at R1N. Paul commented that it has been a long time in the making. He noted that they are not anticipating any problems, and they are going to keep it on regular shore power as they are replacing the batteries, which should be only a day and Ms. Claire Wittschiede will update the team as they go along. Paul stated that was the only changes he had.</p> <p>Scott N. asked if there were any questions from the group, hearing none, he moved on to the Action Items.</p>	
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Updates</b>	<b>Action Items Assigned</b>
	<p>Paul briefed that there is good news for everyone who has not heard or has not been made aware that ALMR received Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP) approval after many years of work, he thanked everyone who worked behind the scenes on that project. He noted that there was one action items that was a carry over to get training on the APX NXT radios. Paul stated that as of February 25<sup>th</sup>, the state radio shop, Alaska Department of Public Safety Communication Services (APSCS), have begun turning on and testing the APX NXT radios, and he will be working with Motorola as Mr. Scott Stormo and Mr. Nik Fahnestock's teams set up a training session for all the agencies on FedRAMP, but that is the only update the team has right now.</p>	



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	<p>Scott N. asked if there were any questions concerning the Action Items with FedRAMP.</p> <p>Mr. Eli Barry-Garland stated that he had a question, which was that he was wondering if that means that SmartConnect is enabled on the system now or are the teams still waiting for some testing for that.</p> <p>Nik, with the system management office (SMO), stated that technically, yes, it is enabled in the system and that they still want to do some testing and playing with it, but it is enabled and it can be literally utilized, but he thinks maybe Scott S. might want to add something to the conversation.</p> <p>Scott S. asked if it was a federal agency asking the question, and Eli answered that he is with the Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Scott S. noted that his team supports the state radio users, obviously, so there are two perspectives, and he would answer with his team is trying to look at learning and understanding how it works and what are the pros and cons so they can advise the state customers. He stated that they can obviously share that information with BLM, and since BLM is federal, if BLM would like to be involved in doing some testing, the state would be happy to try to share that responsibility and opportunity with BLM to find out what kind of potential use cases there are and both agencies can work to figure out what the bugs are.</p> <p>Eli stated that would be great and he would be happy to chat about that offline.</p> <p>Scott S. commented that Eli could send him an email afterwards, and they can do some more talking about that.</p> <p>Scott N. asked if there were any questions concerning the action item, and hearing none, he asked Paul to provide the Operations Management Office (OMO) updates.</p>	
<b>Operations Management Office</b>	<b>Mr. Paul Fussey, Operations Manager</b>	<b>Action Items Assigned</b>



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<p><b>Training</b></p>	<p>Paul stated that he had a lengthy report for the meeting and that he would start with training.</p> <p>1. Paul briefed that Mr. Dan Nelson is working on the Anchorage Wide Area Radion Network (AWARN) versus ALMR and what they really want to do is highlight the differences between the two systems and how they work together. He noted that when you have a VHF and 700/800 megahertz systems, there are a lot of questions from the field on how that works with the simulcast system, and how ALMR works with the AWARN team, Mr. Mark Neuman, Mr. Jason Beach, and Mr. Trygve Erickson. Paul commented that Dan is working on that video vignette and will soon have it on the ALMR website.</p>	
<p><b>Outreach</b></p>	<p>2. Paul briefed that he, Scott S., and Nik met with the Mat-Su Borough (MSB) for planning and what MSB is looking at is possibly moving some towers or starting to use ALMR more. They went out and had a very productive meeting with the MSB radio shop and their managers. He noted that they are looking at any gaps ALMR might be able to fill in their area and where ALMR does not have good coverage, possibly adding sites at the MSB towers where they have good coverage. Paul commented that it was a very productive meeting, and they are working on scheduling another one.</p> <p>Paul then briefed that he, Scott S., and Nik had a meeting with the Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) radio team at their Anchorage office, and the CBP is looking to add 100 radios to the system and working on their talkshare agreements and code plugs for the different agencies. He noted this was a very productive meeting , and that CBP is a new member to ALMR, so ALMR is in the process of getting that all set up for them.</p> <p>Paul noted that the legislative session is going on and he just wanted to say thank you to the entities and individuals who are down in Juneau talking to their different legislators and promoting ALMR. He stated that Chief Browning, from Central Emergency Services (CES) fire department, requested some ALMR coverage area concerns, because he was contacted by Representative Ruffridge's chief of staff about Nikiski and Turnagain Pass, so Paul sent him some talking points for ALMR. Paul commented that it was good to hear, for Chief Browning and others out there too, to talk about ALMR to the legislators, so if Paul hears any more, he will let everyone know.</p> <p>Paul stated that he attended the monthly Alaska Police Officers Association (APOA) meeting.</p>	



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	<p>Paul noted that he met with Mr. Ryan Marlow from the Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding radio testing for their remote operators, possibly using Starlink and how ALMR can integrate that with SmartConnect. ALMR is just in the process of that, and they are looking to have one of their vehicles up in the Fairbanks area as their lead for the agency to do some radio testing for ALMR.</p> <p>Paul commented that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 10 (R10) Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group (RECCWG) meeting was held the other day, and that he and Ms. Tammy Goggia-Cockrell attended. He noted that he gave an update for Alaska on what ALMR is doing with FedRAMP. Paul stated that the meeting was very well attended, there were approximately 116 other people in the meeting, which includes Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.</p> <p>Paul briefed that on March 25<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>, the Alaskex 2025 statewide exercise is going to be held in Anchorage, and this is a natural disaster exercise with agency representatives from multiple state, federal, local, and municipal agencies. He noted that he, Scott S., and Nik attended last year, and that he will be attending again to answer ALMR questions and any radio issues that people might have. The ALMR team is out there talking to the other agencies, keeping the word out there for ALMR, constantly promoting and educating people.</p> <p>Paul noted that inventory lists are being sent out to members, and that this has been talked about the last couple of meetings. He and Scott S. have stated that ALMR is getting very close to the maximum radio licenses for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which is 33,000 licenses. ALMR currently has 32,652 subscribers on the system. Paul commented that ALMR, especially Nik's team, is going through and looking at radios that haven't been on the system for at least three to four years, and compiling lists to send out to different agencies to look at to see if they are still using those radios. Do the agencies need the radios as a backup in case of a natural disaster to hand out to other entities; if the agencies are not using the radios or have the radios already been replaced and a subscriber request for removal has not been filled out, ALMR is requesting that each agency go through their inventory and fill out the subscriber request to have those removed. He noted that one agency that went through their list sent a subscriber request to have 19 radios removed, 19 is not a lot but 19 here, 15 there, add up very quickly. Paul requested that</p>	
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<b>Upgrades</b>	<p>the agencies look for those emails from him on those radios that have not been on the system for several years.</p> <p>Paul stated that he attended the two-day Information Security for Electronic Utilities workshop that was hosted by the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) and the Alaska Municipal League (AML). He noted that it was Alaska centric and mainly focused on the villages with cybersecurity and electronics, so it was very informational for him.</p> <p>Paul asked if there were any questions before he continued on to the system upgrade.</p> <p>3. Hearing none, Paul briefed that the Motorola teams are working on the dispatch centers right now installing the Juniper routers around the state.</p> <p>Paul again noted that ALMR received FedRAMP approval and that ALMR is working with their security manager, Mr. David Reed, making sure ALMR is doing everything correctly turning on Smart Connect and doing the testing with both Wi-Fi and the LTE radio systems. Paul stated that one of the tests ALMR used was very encouraging, ALMR had a trooper in Bethel using their radio talking to dispatch in Fairbanks through their Wi-Fi and LTE, which has never happened before, and the team was excited about those results. He commented that ALMR had other folks using their radios off their Wi-Fi system for their vehicles and Scott S. and his team are looking at setting up some more testing. Paul briefed that this is very promising, but he wanted to stress that using radios with LTE and Wi-Fi is just another tool in the toolbox, and he wants to make sure everyone understands this does not usurp ALMR. ALMR is still covering many places where you do not have Wi-Fi or LTE, using SmartConnect is just another tool in the toolbox for ALMR.</p> <p>Paul stated that ALMR is continuing to work with agencies to turn on TDMA for their talkgroups.</p> <p>Paul briefed that the teams are at Clear for the Aviat install on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March.</p> <p>Paul noted that Claire at the ALMR help desk puts out a daily update all the time, so he wants to stress if anybody is not receiving this from Claire to please contact the ALMR help desk and be put on the distribution list. He commented that the help desk has received some phone calls from people who do not have this when some people in their shop did and the help desk received call from people asking why their radios were not working in a</p>	
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<p><b>February Document Reviews</b></p>	<p>certain area at a certain time, so this update that Claire puts out everyday talks about different outages and what is going on or being completed. Paul wanted to encourage everyone to contact the ALMR help desk and get on Claire's email list, if not already included.</p> <p>4. Paul briefed that for the February document reviews the Strategic and Operational Plan and the Service Level Agreement were completed.</p> <p>Paul asked if there were any questions before he goes to the metrics.</p>	
<p><b>February System Metrics</b></p>	<p>5. Paul briefed that the metrics for calls were 1,412,866; the monthly push-to-talks (PTTs) were 2,231,048; the monthly busies were 276; and the subscriber counts were at 32,652. He noted that if the number are broken down for subscriber counts the municipalities are at 12,278; DoD at 9,888; the federal non-DoD is 1,844; and the SOA is 8,630.</p> <p>Paul stated that the site below three 9s were 10, and when looking through the reasons there was storm damage that impacted the microwave antenna system, for Pillar Mountain and Women's Bay, and that took a while for the repair to get out there plus flying out more parts they needed. He noted that preventative maintenance inspections (PMIs), which are scheduled maintenance, were completed at Ester Dome, Goose Creek, and Peger Road. Paul commented that the others were Cooper Mountain where the crews had to fly out and work on the microwave dish and RX antenna, which was bent,; Haines had to change out the chargers; Paxson the weather caused the microwave backhaul to reroute; Skagway APSCS was doing some maintenance there; and Yanert had a bounce caused by the Denali microwave.</p> <p>Paul asked if there were any questions on the metrics, hearing none, he continued on with his briefing.</p>	
<p><b>Other Items</b></p>	<p>6. Paul briefed that the International Wireless Communication Expo (IWCE) is going on from March 16<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>, and that will be attended by himself, and individuals from Scott S.'s team. He stated what they do there is attend training sessions; talk to ALMR vendors and look at lights, bi-directional antennas (BDAs), shelters, microwaves, which is also a good time to talk one-on-one with the vendors; they also talk to the different radio manufactures attending; so, it is a lot of networking and looking at different systems, equipment, and latest technology to ensure they are bringing the best back for the ALMR system.</p>	





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	<p>Paul noted that the Alaska Division of Forestry and Fire Protection held their management spring operations meeting February 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> in Wasilla and the Northern Forestry Dispatch Center has individuals attending their inaugural National Basic Dispatch Academy that is going on right now from February 25<sup>th</sup> to March 13<sup>th</sup>. He commented that the reason he is bringing up the forestry teams, is there is not a lot of snow coverage right now, and the concern is the wildland fire season is fast approaching and there is a lot of fuel on the ground because of the lack of snowpack. Paul stated that ALMR, OMO, and SMO monitor the daily map for wildland fires to make sure they do not affect any of the towers used by ALMR. Last year there were a couple of wildland fires that got close to an ALMR tower. He noted that he worked with the public information officer (PIO), Beth Ipsen in Fairbanks to ensure that she was aware of where these fires are in relation to ALMR structures. Paul stated that the team also monitors the extra radio traffic around these towers when there are wildland fires to make sure the extra radio traffic does not create any extra busies.</p> <p>Paul stated that the Zone Control Rollovers were performed on February 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and there were no issues or concerns from him, Nik, or any of the dispatch centers.</p> <p>Paul commented that Mary is working on the cost share numbers for the agencies and once that is completed, the OMO will start sending out membership agreements.</p> <p>Paul briefed that if anyone needs to get a hold of him, he will be out of the office March 10<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> on PTO, but he will have his computer with him and will be periodically checking it, so if you need anything while he is out, please be sure to contact Nik and his team at the ALMR Help Desk or Mary.</p> <p>Paul stated that Daylight Savings Time begins March 9<sup>th</sup>, just a reminder for everyone.</p> <p>Paul noted that if anybody pays attention to the Alaska Volcano Center, they have been watching and monitoring Mount Spurr. He commented that he was here back in '92 when it dumped all the ash on Anchorage, so just to remind everyone on the ALMR website (<a href="https://alaskalandmobileradio.org/plans-and-strategies/">https://alaskalandmobileradio.org/plans-and-strategies/</a>) there is a catastrophic natural event (CNE) contingency plan document on there, and in that document under sections 5.1, 5.5.1, and 6.1 it talks about what you can do or what ALMR plans on doing in case there is a volcanic</p>	
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	<p>eruption or event that does target the towers, and Nik and his team do have contingency equipment as well as the state. Paul stated that ALMR is monitoring that in case that happens.</p> <p>Paul stated that there are several events that have been added to the Upcoming Events Calendar page on the ALMR website (<a href="https://alaskalandmobileradio.org/upcoming-events-calendar/">https://alaskalandmobileradio.org/upcoming-events-calendar/</a>) and he recommends everyone to take a look at that.</p> <p>Paul commented that the exercise Vigilant Guard 2025 is ongoing, which is a four-day exercise for the Alaska Guard, Northcom and joint task force (JTF) Alaska and is based on flooding, earthquakes, and tsunami scenarios.</p> <p>Paul stated that was all he had for his report.</p> <p>Scott N. thanked Paul and asked if there were any other questions regarding Paul's briefing. He stated that hearing none he would move on to the systems management office and asked Nik if he had an update for the council.</p>	
<b>System Management Office</b>	<b>Mr. Nik Fahnestock, System Manager</b>	<b>Action Items Assigned</b>
	<p>Nik briefed that he was just going to recap a lot of the items that Paul briefed, so he will keep it much shorter.</p> <p>Nik noted that Cooper Mountain is fixed, and he has talked to a couple of users around that area and they have said it is significantly better than it has been.</p> <p>Nik stated that the dispatch upgrade, Juniper upgrades, are going pretty well, there has been little bumps here and there, but overall, it is progressing pretty well. He commented that so far the results he has seen and the statistics that he has pulled from the switches and routers have been looking pretty good, but he did want to add a "thank you for your patience" with this upgrade and he knows it is rough to do the job of the dispatcher as they have to deal with the people that are doing the actual upgrading or installing the equipment and having to work around them as well.</p> <p>Nik commented that with the spring and summer months, PMIs are definitely going to be picking up, so he thanked everyone again for their patience with that as well, while</p>	



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	<p>the team goes out and does the preventative maintenance and ensuring that the RF sites out there are working at optimal performance.</p> <p>Nik stated that was all he had to add.</p> <p>Scott N. thanked Nik and noted the next item will be the state and DoD updates.</p>	
<b>State of Alaska</b>	<b>Mr. Scott Stormo</b>	<b>Action Items Assigned</b>
	<p>Scott S. briefed that he had a couple of things to add regarding the power upgrade to the APSCS/ALMR master site. He noted that he does not have any firm dates yet when Chugach Electric is going to change out the transformer to the building, it does have the battery uninterruptible power supply (UPS) system that has been refreshed back in the master site, so the building does have good batteries to last for at least a few hours. Scott S. stated that the plan is Chugach Electric is going to wire the generator to be able to power that essential equipment while they are swapping the transformer, so as much as possible, this is going to be planned to be a no outage situation but playing with electricity there is always a chance that something is going to not do what they were hoping it was going to do. He commented that there will be plenty of notice and when he has those dates, he will provide plenty of notice when it is happening, but it is possible something outside of their control could go on.</p> <p>Scott S. noted that the cable cut, that probably many are familiar with, of ACS down in the Southeast, which luckily did not have an impact to ALMR, but the state did have dropped Southeast sites for about 18 minutes, so the state is trying to find out how that happened. They think it probably had something to do with when they were trying to move services from one vendor over to another vendor that somehow that may have impacted their circuits. He stated that the state is also in the process of getting another vendor's circuit to the Southeast, so that they get some extra redundancy. By having separate vendors, it would be separate equipment, and they would be able to keep as much of the Southeast up and running if something like that happened to the primary cable they were on, they would still have a secondary vendor with a different cable and different equipment. Scott S. commented that the state and ALMR are always looking</p>	



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	<p>for ways to make the system more robust , but there is probably no amount of money he could spend trying to make this as reliable as possible.</p> <p>Scott S. stated that he would like to go back to SmartConnect for a second and he does not want to feel like he is keeping anybody from doing this. What his cautious approach to it is because the state and ALMR have already seen a few hiccups that are involved with how the radios have been programmed and the radios all must be programmed to work on them. He noted that as Paul mentioned earlier, there is potentially 8,000 state radios out there and he would hate to go out and program 8,000 radios wrong and have to go find them again to reprogram them, so it is kind of the fact that he has that big challenge in front of him. Scott S. commented that if a smaller agency wants to start playing with this and they have an easier time making changes to their radios if they find something did not work like, then by all means reach out to the state and ALMR teams and they can work to get the agency tested. He would be a little less risk averse, because if he could drive to every one of the radios and change them if he had to, it would be a nightmare if he had to go try to change every trooper radio more than once.</p> <p>Scott S. asked if there were any questions about any of this.</p> <p>Fire Marshal Kyle Green stated that he had a question for Scott S. if he could and Scott S. answered in the affirmative. Kyle asked at what point does Scott S. maybe forecast that the User Council will need to start thinking about or drafting policies related to ALMR access through the SmartConnect system and are the members going to start to see where guidance documents and what guardrails, are needed to be implemented before ALMR starts opening it up further for other user agencies.</p> <p>Scott S. replied that it is probably something the council, ALMR, the state, and the DoD need to consider, because there is a limitation of, he thinks, 200 simultaneous talkpaths that can go through that, and he does not even know if there is a way of measuring that to know how often that happens. He noted that most likely there is not going to be a ton of traffic on it, because anyone who is within the coverage footprint of ALMR is going to prefer to stay on ALMR. ALMR would want to have a policy that says, agencies need to prefer LMR not preferring broadband,</p>	
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	<p>otherwise they would be using SmartConnect the whole time even when they were in ALMR coverage area. Scott S. commented that Motorola says that SmartConnect does not work on 3G, but the state and ALMR is hearing conflicting information as to whether they have been able to Wi-Fi hotspot on 3G cell sites in Western Alaska or not, so those are just some of the things the teams are trying to prove. The state and ALMR has had some exciting technology in the past that when users get out there, the user experience is not quite like it is expected. He briefed that the state and ALMR want to test and make sure they know what that stuff is doing and then try to find a way to publish and share that perhaps to a document like Kyle is mentioning or just showing some use and test cases where things work, but this is definitely not as public safety grade and as reliable as ALMR. There is a lot that can go wrong, but in places where there is no communication right now, he would say that any communication is better than nothing. Scott S. commented that everyone needs to realize that strange things could happen like someone could be trying to switch between Wi-Fi and LTE or something, depending on how the radio settings are when that happens they are probably dropping the calls and things like that are going to happen. So, if users are using a Wi-Fi bubble outside of a trooper vehicle people have to realize that bubble is only so big, and once they step outside of it they are not going to be talking anymore. He noted that it might be easy for the members and ALMR teams to talk about, but it is hard to have thousands of people understanding it to that level of use, so there definitely needs to be some guidance and documentation put together as ALMR figures this out.</p> <p>Kyle thanked Scott S. and stated that he absolutely agrees with Scott S. He went on to comment that is going to be the challenge to sort it out and figure it out, then go along with that making sure that the devices used to access LMR through SmartConnect are appropriate and appropriately programmed, and he echoed what Paul had said earlier that it is a tool in the toolbox, but as with every tool they all have limitations. Kyle noted that is why this is an augmentation to the system in building use, particularly for DPS concerned buildings, here at the university inside out building where signals do not go in or out, but they have a robust WiFi network or other type of backhaul, that is where defining those lines like this is okay to use but make sure you switch back when already in an ALMR covered area. He commented that it has to start somewhere with</p>	
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	<p>policy and that way the users know what guardrails there are with using this tool as much as in advance to go along with identifying maybe allowing these devices but these other devices over here are showing that they are not reliable enough or proper enough to be on the ALMR system through SmartConnect, he hopes that makes sense. Kyle stated that he is not sure how to get the conversation going to maybe start that process but he hopes the user council has got it on its radar as something that they probably need to be discussing.</p> <p>Scott S. responded that the example Kyle just gave, since Kyle is the with the University Fire Department, most the radios would work when you went in the university buildings on that WiFi network, but this is where it starts to get more complicated because if some other fire department showed up to help or if the troopers showed up for a reason and went in the buildings, their radios would not be configured on that Wi-Fi. It has certain use cases where it probably makes sense. He noted that the perfect solution is either add more RF sites to push that coverage inside those building or to have BDA systems to carry that signal so anyone that shows up with an ALMR radio can talk. Scott S. stated that those are just the things that people just need to make sure anyone understands and there are definitely some use cases for it that will work great for the people that are in the building if that is where they work all the time, but they just need to know if somebody else shows up, they probably are not going to be able to talk in that building without that radio being programmed for that building as well. He noted that it is back to what he was talking about is if someone has to touch each of those radios to program them. If somebody wants to be able to go into the Walmart or whatever and use their Wi-Fi, it is not really an option because the radio technicians would have to program the service set identifier (SSID) and a password for every one of those, so the LTE version of the radio will be much simpler but it is more expensive, but the Wi-Fi stuff may be good for people who are in the area often.</p> <p>Kyle stated that he wanted to add on to Scott S.'s comment.</p> <p>Kyle noted the other though process he would throw out there to think about for everybody is black cloud days versus gray cloud days versus maybe a sort of cloudy sky day as far as what incidents this technology is used for,</p>	
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	<p>and coming up with the game plan for that. He stated that for the run-of-the-mill where buildings are not a threat, where it is just a single agency, this might make sense, but where you have black cloud days where there are multiple agencies, this might not make sense. Kyle commented that those are like the guardrails, among other things: like about devices; what Wi-Fi networks can be used; what security is used; what those Wi-Fi networks have to have; or whatever the backhaul is, he thinks those are some of the guardrails everyone should explore. He thanked the council and stated he appreciated this conversation.</p> <p>Scott N. thanked Scott S. for his update and asked if anybody had any questions for Scott S. and hearing none he moved on.</p>	
<b>Department of Defense</b>	<b>Mr. Timothy Woodall</b>	<b>Action Items Assigned</b>
	<p>Mr. Timothy Woodall stated that he had some questions for Scott S. that will help to deal with the folks out on the base, his question was if Scott S. had an update on the next upgrade time frame and also any update on review of the Performance Work Statement (PWS) for the contract.</p> <p>Scott S. stated that Motorola has not given a date for when the State needs to do the next upgrade and of past understandings of how that process worked the state would about now be into that process of needing to do an upgrade. Motorola has not stated that the state needs to yet, so he would say that it is probably good for a couple of years, plus the state does not have anything in the 2026 budget to do anything anyways. Scott S. is thinking in 2027 the state is going to need to do an upgrade.</p> <p>Tim asked if Scott S. could have Motorola give a rough order of magnitude proposals so that the DoD can go about the funding requirements and go after the funding that would be required, because there is a minimum two-year process for DoD, which prefers five-years, but two-years would be our minimum to be successful and that is pushing it. He noted that now is the time frame in which the DoD needs to highlight that and push it.</p> <p>Tim also asked on the 26<sup>th</sup> contract if Scott S. was getting close to wanting to do a PWS review pick up where the DoD and the state discuss what is going and or if</p>	





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	<p>anything is coming out from what the existing scope of work is.</p> <p>Scott S. stated that it is getting close and he can talk more with Tim offline about that.</p> <p>Tim said okay to Scott S. and stated that was all he had.</p> <p>Scott N. thanked Tim for his brief and asked if there are any further questions regarding that. He stated he would be moving on to the Council Representatives.</p>	
<b>User Council Representative Reports</b>	<b>Represented Areas</b>	<b>Action Items Assigned</b>
<b>SOA DPS</b>	<p>1. Mr. John Rockwell stated that there was nothing from him.</p> <p>Lt. Ben Endres stated that he would just add on some of that testing that the troopers were doing with the SmartConnect and that the APX6000 did successfully connect with Bethel, where there was LTE through GCI or there is AT&amp;T as well, but at Hooper Bay, it was 3G GCI and they were able to connect, but then at another village with the similar 3G GCI it did not work. He noted that he was then able to successfully connect his radio to the Sierra wireless on a vehicle and do a radio check that got to dispatch, so that was pretty exciting to add that tool to the toolbox, but obviously it still needs more testing and going forward to figure out what will work in various places.</p>	
<b>SOA DOT</b>	<p>2. Mr. John Clendenin stated that Mr. Henry Cole was having technical difficulties but he has an update.</p> <p>Henry apologized that he has been having trouble with his microphone for a couple weeks now and it is inconsistent, but in any case, he believes Scott S. mentioned earlier that the DOT is doing three location tests of Starlink or SmartConnect, one out of Anchorage, one out of Juneau, and then he will be doing it out of Fairbanks with a particular emphasis on areas of the Dalton, Elliott, and Steese highways. He stated that they do not really have ALMR coverage in those areas and also do not really have much in the way of 4G or 3G for that matter, so he is hoping probably not by the April meeting, but maybe</p>	



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<p><b>SOA All Others</b></p>	<p>May or June he will be able to give a detailed status report back to the group on how well that worked out. Henry commented that was all he had for now.</p> <p>3. Scott. N stated that he does have a couple of things to add such as March 6<sup>th</sup> they are doing their radio inventory for the State Emergency Operations Center and they will be not just conducting the inventory, but also marking which radios are going to come off the network. They do not have a lot of radios but they have enough that they can make a little dent in the issue with the ALMR capacity. He noted that the head dispatcher from Fairbanks State Troopers was down on March 4<sup>th</sup> and he showed her the new telex system that they had installed in the mobile command center, which has four dispatch stations; access to ALMR radios, which there is a whole bank of them and those radios can be pulled and people can add their own or they can just add their own code plug. It is an open-source platform with a brand new server that he just configured; and a lot of brand new components to include a mass camera that also does infrared, so they are getting that ready to go. Scott N. commented that wildland fire season is kicking in a little early, and so he is hoping to have that ready to roll by the end of March.</p> <p>Mr. Karl Edwards did not have anything to add.</p>	
<p><b>DoD JBER</b></p> <p><b>DoD Eielson</b></p>	<p>1. No updates were provided.</p> <p>2. Mr. Nathan Adams, who was filling in for MSgt. Rodriguez, stated that he was asked to brief that they had received 1200 of their flash codes for the TDMA upgrades and they have implemented about 25 of them this week. He noted that they have the med group squadron scheduled to bring in as many of the radios as they can on Monday and do a one day turn around on them, get them back to them, take the rest of the radios, and then complete them, then continue to schedule other squadrons weekly as they can bring them in. Nathan commented that they also had BK Technology in the house on March 4<sup>th</sup> showing them their product and everyone that was there was very pleased with what they saw.</p>	



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<b>DoD US Army Installations</b>	<p>Tim asked that when they put their APX radios online did they remove the XTS radios, , which Nathan replied in the affirmative.</p> <p>3. No updates were provided.</p>	
<b>Federal Non-DoD DOJ</b>  <b>Federal Non-DoD DOI</b>  <b>Federal Non-DoD All Others</b>	<p>1. Mr, Jon Kroona stated they did not have any updates.</p> <p>2. Mr. Eli Barry-Garland stated they are still working on distributing their new BKR 5000 TDMA compatible radios, so they have been phasing those in and getting rid of the old KNGS. He noted that they are also in the process of pushing APR for the TDMA upgrades on their Motorolas, so they should hopefully have all of their radios, except for the mobiles on TDMA by the end of the year and they are planning to do the mobiles next fiscal year.</p> <p>3. Mr. Bobby Carter stated that TSA Alaska had no updates.</p>	
<b>Munis-North</b>  <b>Munis-Southeast</b>  <b>Munis-Central</b>	<p>Scott N. moved onto the municipal components.</p> <p>1. Deputy Chief Keith Berrian stated they had nothing to add at this point.</p> <p>2. Ms. Erann Kalwara noted the only update she really had is that in Juneau they are working on an RFP to purchase more subscribers to have more of their public safety radio users and partner in Juneau on the system.</p> <p>3. Ms. Tammy Goggia-Cockrell noted she did not have any updates, but that she does have a few projects that are in the very beginning stages and hopes to have an update next meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Jim Goodman briefed that they are going forward in Palmer with TDMA and adding more Kenwoods to the system. He noted they have been doing some coverage testing and he has been working with Scott S. and Paul on that.</p>	
<b>New Business</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action Items Assigned</b>



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<b>CISA</b>	<p>Scott N. stated that hearing no comments or questions he was moving on to New Business.</p> <p>Mr. Bruce Richter, with Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), stated that he wanted to share an announcement that the state 911 coordinator, Mr. Donnie Lane, pushed out. He commented that members can make the first week of April an exciting Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday communications focused kind of event with April 2<sup>nd</sup> the next User Council meeting, and then on Thursday and Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, over in person at the state crime lab training room in the morning and also a virtual event that people can register for. Bruce noted they are working with CISA headquarters and bringing a two-day workshop called Cyber Resistant 911, which does require advance registration, which can be found on the ALMR website at <a href="https://alaskalandmobileradio.org/upcoming-events-calendar/">https://alaskalandmobileradio.org/upcoming-events-calendar/</a>. Bruce stated that Donnie asked that the information be shared with everyone and stated that the intended audience for this workshop is employees of state and local governments that support 911 IT, cyber, public safety, and law enforcement, and Bruce strongly encourages each of the members to forward this to at the very least their IT personnel providing direct support to the 911 centers. He commented that CISA has been doing these workshops in other states around the nation and sharing some lessons learned.</p> <p>Bruce stated that the second item he wanted to share, since the last ALMR meeting, is that both the FCC and DHS science and technology offices collaborated on an updated kind of jamming alert poster, which is a pretty good poster because it show photographs of examples of some of the things that have been seized around the country that are being used to defeat law enforcement communications. He noted that as an example, some may have read the stories about NFL players or NBA stars having their houses burglarized while they are at a game, well it has been a South American series of gangs doing that and they have been bringing these jammers along with them while they are doing the burglaries. Bruce commented that it is kind of nice to know what the bad guys are using and see some recent examples, so the poster also has some good examples of what law enforcement can do to defeat that jamming if they think they are being jammed. He noted that he encourages everyone to take a look at it, it is a fairly good product,</p>	
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	<p>and it can be posted in briefing rooms or on bulletin boards. (Link to poster: <a href="#">DHS-FCC Joint Jammer Infographic   Homeland Security</a>)</p> <p>Bruce stated he had two questions for the group: the first question was, CISA is working on trying to do an undersea cable threat awareness briefing for the different cable providers and he does not have a good contact for Quintillion since he has not been able to get a response, so if anybody has got a good contact, email, or phone number for somebody in Quintillion he would appreciate it. The second question was, they were talking about the options for resilience and redundancy, and certainly Starlink has been useful, and ACS also is a reseller of One Web, which they use that for some of the communities that might be cut off from other services. He commented that as he was walking into the meeting, there was a very clean looking SOA Statewide Aviation Services rig out front with what looks like a Starlink antennae on the roof and he is curious if the orientation of that antenna when the vehicle is pointed in a different direction or whether different terrain makes any difference to how well that tool works.</p> <p>Tim stated that the DoD has Star Shield, not Starlink, but they have a mobile version and basically it just needs to be oriented up in the sky, and as it is moving it navigates satellite to satellite without skipping a beat. He noted that the Marine Corps took the Star Shield and they were on trains up in Fairbanks, and went a pretty good distance on Alaska Railroad way up north and did not have any issues whatsoever, so they are not seeing any problems with mobile coverage.</p> <p>Bruce said that is good to know.</p> <p>Henry with DOT stated that he can comment briefly on both of those questions and first about a contact with Quintillion, he does not personally have one, but their utility section has issued permits to them, so he will reach out and find out what the best starting point would be. He stated with the second, regarding the Starlink panels, from what he understands, they have several of them on vehicles now and for the most part, orientation does not really matter, however, a couple of the older mounts had the panel at maybe a 30° angle, and that one turns out it works best when the vehicle is facing north, but the newer</p>	
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	<p>mounts are more flat and it does not seem to matter, so that is what has been reported to him.</p> <p>Scott S. noted that the vehicle actually out front is there for testing with SmartConnect, and his team has been able to connect through the Starlink, so those use cases like the Dalton Highway, and he got an email from Eli that Scott S. would expect this is going to work fairly well in that scenario. He commented that Mr. Ryan Marlow, the person that loaned us that vehicle, said there are a couple of different panels people can have on the roof and one of them is a little more particular how it is lined up, but the others seem to work pretty much all the time, so he thinks as long as people get the right stuff for that Starlink panel on a vehicle it seems like their experience has been working pretty well.</p> <p>Bruce stated that it is great to have those options and thanks for that update.</p> <p>Tim noted that there is another update, he does not know if people are tracking, but One Web failed to program Leap Year into their satellites, so he does not know if they are updating them right now. He stated that they are not thinking that what they have launched is going to be viable after, just a heads up on that.</p> <p>Ben wanted to go back to the Starlink on vehicles question, and he commented that the troopers have one on one of their Tahoes, Captain Brett Johnson has it on his, but he also has the FirstNet transceiver connected to the Starlink, so he has been able to verify that those are working well together and he has good FirstNet coverage in areas where there ordinarily is not.</p> <p>Scott N. stated if there is nothing else, then the meeting can move on.</p>	
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	
	Scott N. briefed the next meetings are currently scheduled for April 2 and May 7.	
<b>Adjournment</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	



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	<p>Scott N. asked if anybody else has anything at this time, hearing none, he moved on to entertain a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting.</p> <p><b>Motion: Adjourn the March 5 User Council meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Motion: Mr. Henry Cole</b></p> <p><b>Second: Deputy Chief Keith Berrian</b></p> <p>Scott N. noted at this time; the meeting is adjourned.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.</p>	
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