



ALMR User Council Meeting Minutes

Date: September 3, 2025

1. Attendance.

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

Primary				
N/A	Adams	Nathan	Mr.	DoD USAF, Eielson AFB
U	Atkinson	Ross	Mr.	Federal Non-DoD DOI, BLM-Alaska Fire Service
T	Berrian	Keith	Deputy Chief	Muni-North, Chena Goldstream Fire & Rescue
E	Cole	Henry	Mr.	SOA DOT
T	De Hart	Kaitlyn	Ms.	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
E	Nelsen	Scott	Mr.	SOA All Others, DMVA, Chair
N/A	Nelson	James	Officer	Federal Non-DoD All Others, US Forest Service
T	Rockwell	John	Mr.	SOA DPS, SWIC
U	Smith	Eric	Mr.	DoD US Army - Alaska

Alternate				
U	Brown	David	Mr.	Fed Non-DoD DOJ, FBI
T	Carter	Bobby	Mr.	Federal Non-DoD All Others, TSA
U	Clendenin	John	Mr.	SOA DOT
T	Dante	Ray	SSgt	DoD USAF, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
N/A	Draves	Kayla	MSgt	DoD USAF, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
T	Edwards	Karl	Mr.	DHS, SOA All Others
P	Endres	Benjamin	Lieutenant	SOA DPS
T	Fernandez	Preston	TSgt	DoD USAF, Eielson AFB
E	Green	Kyle	Fire Marshal	Municipalities North, University Fire Department
T	Goodman	Jim	Mr.	Municipalities Central, MatSu Borough
N/A	Guetaloreto	Christian	SSgt	DoD USAF, Eielson AFB
U	Higginbotham	Dave	MSgt	DoD US Army - Alaska
N/A	Roberts	Nathan	TSgt	DoD USAF, Eielson AFB
N/A	VACANT			Federal Non-DoD DOI
N/A	VACANT			Municipalities Southeast

Supporting Staff and Guests

T	Bishop	Erika	Ms.	State of Alaska - DPS
P	Burnham	Mary	Ms.	Operations Management Office (OMO)
P	Culver	Mike	Mr.	Motorola Solutions
P	Fahnestock	Nik	Mr.	Systems Manager - SMO
T	Flores	Mickey	Mr.	BK Technologies
P	Fussey	Paul	Mr.	Operations Manager - OMO
P	House	Peter	Mr.	Alaska State Defense Force
T	Lane	Donnie	Mr.	SOA Statewide 911 Coordinator



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T	Marlow	Ryan	Mr.	Department of Transportation (DOT)
T	McRae	Zack	Mr.	Matanuska-Susitna Borough
T	Merkouris	Paul	Mr.	BK Technologies
T	Nelson	Dan	Mr.	Operations Management Office (OMO)
P	Neuman	Mark	Mr.	Municipality of Anchorage (MOA)
T	Rambo	Rikk	Mr.	WISN
P	Reed	David	Mr.	Motorola Solutions – Security Manager
P	Richter	Bruce	Mr.	DHS CISA
P	Rockwell	Evan	Mr.	Alaska State Defense Force
T	Rogell	Pete	Mr.	BK Technologies
P	Stormo	Scott	Mr.	State of Alaska (SOA) - DPSCS
P	Vaillancourt	Ryan	Mr.	Motorola Solutions
P	Wiley	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	Ms. Tammy Goggia-Cockrell said good afternoon to everyone and thanked everyone for attending the ALMR User Council meeting, stated the date, and called the meeting to order at 1:31 PM. Tammy asked Ms. Mary Burnham to read the roll call.	
Roll Call	Roll call was presented by Mary. Ms. Erika Bishop joined the meeting after the roll was taken.	
Introduction of Guests and Special Announcements	Tammy asked if there were any special guests. Mr. Paul Fussey noted there were special guests from Motorola Solutions. Ms. Naomi Wiley introduced Mr. Mike Culver and Ryan Vaillancourt. Tammy thanked Naomi and stated the council could now move on to the approval of the previous meeting minutes, which was August 13 th .	
Previous Meeting Minutes	Tammy asked if everyone had a chance to review the August 13 th minutes and asked if there were any comments or requested changes at this time. Hearing none, she asked if she could please have a motion and a second to approve the August 13 th minutes.	



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	Motion: Approve the August 13 monthly User Council meeting minutes. Motion: Mr. John Rockwell Second: Mr. Bobby Carter Tammy asked if there were any objections or further discussion, and hearing none, she stated the motion had passed. She stated the council was moving on to the Issues & Risks Log and asked Paul to please provide an update.	
Issues & Risks Log	Review	Resolution
	Paul briefed that ALMR has been still trying to find alternates for the Federal Non-DoD and for the Southeast. He noted that Mary sent out emails to try and find individuals, however, those positions have not been filled yet. Paul stated that if anybody knows someone who would like to be an alternate to please let the Operations Management Office (OMO) know so the OMO can work on getting the paperwork over to them. Paul noted that was all he had, and that those two positions have been out for quite a while now and ALMR is looking for replacements. Tammy thanked Paul and asked if there were any questions from Paul's report, hearing none, she then moved on to the Action Items.	
Action Items	Updates	Action Items Assigned
	Paul briefed that the two items for the action items are the same two since October 2023, and then also the updated one from April 2nd, regarding the radios for the APX Next, which have been tested on the system and approved. He noted that he and Mr. Nik Fahnestock went through them on both LTE and ALMR and there have been a few here and there getting ready to go out into the field, so once they feel confident with that, and they have got some testing done out in the field, they will reach out to everyone and work on completing both of the action items. Tammy asked if there were any questions or discussions, hearing none, she asked Paul if he would provide the OMO updates at this time, please.	



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Operations Management Office (OMO)	Mr. Paul Fussey, Operations Manager	Action Items Assigned
Training	1. Paul stated, through the chair, that Mr. Dan Nelson would like to talk about the training. Dan thanked Paul and the chair and briefed that he wanted to let the User Council know that the OMO is continuing to provide training through the ALMR online format, focusing a lot on those small topic video type training. He asked that members please take the time to look at some of the new ones that have come out. Dan noted that there is some information, a quick introduction training that was put up a month or two ago on APX Next and some of those emerging issues. He stated that ALMR also has some governance and a few other technical items that are pending. Dan commented that there should be the August videos up on the website (https://alaskalandmobileradio.org/training-videos-2/) hopefully this week, he had a few technical issues on his end and was just waiting for some parts, but that has been sorted. He asked if the User Council or any of their users they represent, have any specific items for training that they are interested in, beyond what is listed on the Action Item Log, to please not hesitate to contact him or Paul and they will be happy to get that on the list to get some of those things produced. Dan stated that was all that he had, but he would be happy to stand for questions. Paul thanked Dan and moved on to Outreach.	
Outreach	2. Paul briefed that he and Mary have been working with the members, reminding them about their signed membership agreements, and he was happy to report that they are way ahead of last year and they only have two outstanding agreements that need to be completed. He noted that it is a large lift to try and get all that paperwork done, all the signatures tracked down, and only having two left as of right now, they are very happy with that. Paul noted that ALMR is working to add members to ALMR and as of August 25th, they now have the State of Alaska (SOA) Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) as new members. He stated that ADFG has	



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	been working with Mr. Scott Stormo's shop to build out their code plug and work on their radios, so ALMR does have one new member. Paul stated that he attended the monthly Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA) meeting, and there was a good presentation by Anchorage Police Department (APD) on their drone program. Paul commented that ALMR still has the Department of Defense (DoD) cybersecurity team monitoring ALMR. Once they are done and everything has been briefed, Paul will set up some time to talk with the User Council members about what they did or did not find. He asked Mr. David Reed, the ALMR Information Systems Security Manager (ISSM), if he had anything to report, and David responded that he had nothing at this time. Paul briefed that the quarterly security updates were conducted the 26th through the 28th of August, and there were no issues found. He noted that is where the team goes through the zone control rollovers for cybersecurity updates, and he wanted to thank the Anchorage Wide Area Radio Network (AWARN) team for working on that. Paul stated that they also came in really early to help the ALMR team. Paul noted that one thing he wanted to pass on to everyone and to please make sure to pass on to the members they represent, if they have any issues to please contact the ALMR Helpdesk, because they cannot fix any issues they do not know anything about or help out the users. He stated this came to light when he was making courtesy calls and he had some individuals tell him their system or the equipment was not working. Paul commented that the ALMR did not know about it, so he and Nik reached out to them, talked to them, and explained to their supervisor to please give the ALMR Helpdesk a call because that way the ALMR team can try and direct members where it can be fixed or how ALMR can help members fix it. He asked if members of the council could pass on to the members they represent that if they have any issues or questions to please contact the ALMR Helpdesk. Paul stated that some individuals are already starting to get emails from him as the ALMR Helpdesk added more subscriber units to the system, and this exceeded the 33,000 number limit per subscriber unit. He commented that ALMR has not seen any issues;	
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System Upgrade	however, he has been going through and sending out emails to everyone with what their radio list is, and he wanted to say thanks to Nik and his team for building out the Excel spreadsheet, which makes it a lot easier for him to go through everyone's radios. Paul noted that ALMR has radios that have not been on the system for at least three years, and he understands some of them might be out at McGrath or Kotzebue that have not been on the system for a while, but currently there are over 6000 radios or subscriber units that have not been on the ALMR system for over three years. He stated that as he goes through the Excel spreadsheet expect emails and what he is attaching to the email is the policy and procedure on how to remove the radios; how to report them lost or stolen so they can be bricked or inhibited; and he is also including a subscriber request form and if those radios have not been on the system for a while or if people have gotten rid of them and forgot to turn them in, please fill it out and get it back to Nik and his team so they can be removed from the system. Paul commented that, like he said, ALMR has exceeded the 33,000 limit on Friday and ALMR has not had any issues but once members get the emails from him, if the subscriber unit is in the red, please send in a subscriber request to remove them. Paul commented that is all he had for outreach and asked if there were any questions before he moved on to the system upgrade, hearing none, he would proceeded. 3. Paul briefed that the team has completed the testing for the Motorola APX N70 portable for both VHS and LTE and Mary has added that radio to the website with the newest brochure, so everyone can go there and take a look. Paul noted that on September 8th, which is coming up, the generator and battery backup is going to be tested at the Zone 2 master site. He stated ALMR is not anticipating any issues with this which it is similar to the battery testing they did about two or three months ago, and they are just doing another testing on that for the generators and battery backup. Paul asked through the chair if Mr. Timothy (Tim) Woodall had an update on the transportable units, TAS and TAN. Tim commented that they are still waiting. Paul thanked Tim and noted that for the system upgrade, the TAS and TAN upgrades have not been completed and he knows it is getting close to the	
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August Document Reviews	September cut off, so when he gets more information, he will let the User Council know. 4. Paul briefed that the August reviews of the Cybersecurity policy and procedure has been completed; the Privileged User Acceptable Use policy and procedure have been done; and the Spectrum Licensing and Management policy and procedure is currently under review. Paul asked if there were any questions from the council before he went to the metrics.	
August System Metrics	5. Paul briefed that as everyone starts looking at the August metrics, ALMR is still a lot higher than last year. He noted that for calls ALMR had 1,659,519; the monthly push-to-talks were 2,709,238; and the monthly busies were 604. Paul commented that he likes how the graph has been dropping precipitously since June. He noted that for the monthly sites below three nines, keeping in mind the system is designed for five nines but ALMR looks at sites that are below three nines and there were 10, which ALMR had some testing on there, some microwave backhaul, some power outages and then relocating equipment to new shelters. Paul stated that this is what he talked about earlier as the group starts looking at subscriber counts for zone one, two, and four, this is where ALMR has exceeded the 33,000 limit, and that is the number that the team needs to keep an eye on. He commented that ALMR is at 33,036 and SOA/DOD has a large percentage of it, but the most is under the Alaska Municipal League, which are the volunteer departments and other city, municipalities with 12,163, and then the federal non-DoD had 1,892. He commented that right now he has been working and sending emails out to a lot of the agencies to make sure that they are turning a subscriber request in to try and reduce that number. Paul asked if there were any questions on the metrics from anyone. He stated that he would finish up his report with Other Items.	
Other Items	6. Paul briefed that the OMO presented the completed budget for the OMO/SMO Operating Budget draft to the July User Council meeting and then the August Executive Council meeting for approval, the Executive Council and User Council both approved the document and it was sent over to Scott at the Alaska Public Safety Communications Systems (APSCS) office. He thanked everyone who voted, and the OMO	



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	received everything in a timely manner for Mary so it could be forwarded on, he greatly appreciated that. Paul noted that he will be traveling up to the Zone 2 master site sometime this month to conduct his inspection of the backups and the maintenance of the system. He stated that he just started reaching out to some of the agencies up there today and he wants to try, while he is up there, instead of just doing the inspection, he plans on spending a couple days up in Fairbanks reaching out to the different fire and police departments up there. Paul commented that most of them he has not seen since last October when he and Dan did the training, but his plan is to try to stop and meet and greet with all the agencies that are up there, so expect an email from him shortly. Paul stated that he is working with Scott and his team, the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), and other personnel and they are going to be updating the emergency communication annex from FEMA. He commented that it was last updated in March of 2020, so they have a meeting set up with that. Paul noted that he has been going through the old one taking notes with Nik to see what ALMR needs to update and upgrade. Paul commented that September 18th is the Air Force's birthday, and that completes his report. Tammy thanked Paul and stated that brings the meeting to the System Management Office (SMO) overview by Nik.	
System Management Office (SMO)	Mr. Nik Fahnestock, System Manager	Action Items Assigned
	Nik briefed that he was going to try and keep it shorter, so it is still the summer months and his team is still doing preventative maintenance inspections (PMIs), because there is still a lot of maintenance to complete but not just from his team but Scott's team as well. He thanked everyone for being patient. Nik noted that the Birch Hill generator test, like Paul stated, is the 8th of September, and it will be similar to the last one. He stated that members should not anticipate any kind of outages, however, he will have two technicians on site in the event something does not go well.	



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	Nik stated that he just wanted to say another reminder to the programmers out there. He commented that when programming radios for Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) to make sure to hit all the things that are needed to hit within the radio, all the right frequencies, band plans, etc. Nik noted that missing one of those settings can mean the difference between talking and not talking. He stated that he recently had a call where an entire fire department could not talk due to the issue that they were experiencing, so what he did for them is he turned TDMA off for that particular talkgroup and they were able to talk again. Nik stated that was all he had. Tammy thanked Nik and stated the next item is the SOA and DoD overviews. She asked Scott S. if he had an update for the state.	
State of Alaska (SOA)	Mr. Scott Stormo	Action Items Assigned
	Scott S. briefed that he just had a quick update. He noted that the \$24 million upgrade project is pretty much over and done at this point, and they are just waiting to do the close out paperwork and make the final payment. Scott S. noted that the state still has a couple of summer season type of events going on, which they have the equipment up at Heney Range in Cordova for the coming shelter, and right now they are waiting for the weather to get good so the team can get back up there and move everything back into the brand new shelter that contractors set for us next to the new tower. He stated that hopefully the weather gets better soon and they do not have to extend the amount of time they are living in a generator shelter with all that electronic equipment. Scott S. commented that they hope they do not lose any power in the meantime because they have the generator shut off to not run and heat the place up. Scott S. stated that the state is in the process of getting a power line put into Tsina, which they were always told was not possible. He commented that it is not energized yet, but hopefully it soon will become energized. Scott S. noted that will be a huge deal because Tsina is in a terrible part of the state to get to in the wintertime, and it runs entirely off of diesel fuel generators, which are no fun to refuel in the wintertime and no fun to go troubleshoot when it stops working.	



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	He stated that if that site goes down it can cause a lot of outages in some of the places where you know the Department of Transportation (DOT) would be clearing several feet of snow off the roadway, so it is not a good place to lose radio communications. Scott S. commented that there are a couple of good projects that they are hoping to have finished off this summer to get some of the old, deferred maintenance and some new capability into the system. Scott S. noted that he does not have anything else unless there are any questions. Tammy thanked Scott S. and asked Tim, with DoD, if he had anything to share.	
Department of Defense	Mr. Timothy Woodall	Action Items Assigned
	Tim briefed that he would just remind the DOD folks that as they get new APX radios, he doubts they have very many XTS 5000s around, but if they do to make sure they take them off the network. He noted that he knows that over the last couple of years they have replaced a lot of the older radios with newer radios and that they also are getting a lot of them updated to TDMA, so please make sure those XTS 5000s that have been retired, probably sent to the Defense Reutilization Marketing Office (DRMO) already, come off the system, so if the DoD folks could check on that, he would appreciate it. Tim noted that the other thing is that the DoD will begin the process pretty quick here for the new contract and he will be setting up some workshops with the DoD folks to go over the existing statement of work and then to discuss things that are not currently covered that they would need. He stated that they want to have those discussions, so he will get what the current scope of work is out to them so they can start looking at that and then they can have that discussion, so that when the DoD comes together with the SOA, they can all get through that process a lot more efficiently. Tim stated that was all he had for right now and thanked the council. Tammy thanked Tim and asked if there were any questions in general before the council moved on to the User Council representative updates. She stated	



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	that hearing none, she would move on starting with the SOA.	
User Council Representative Reports	Represented Areas	Action Items Assigned
SOA DPS	1. Mr. John Rockwell stated he had nothing at this time. Lt. Ben Endres added that they have been working with FirstNet to get rapid response push-to-talk tests going and he hopes by the time of next month's meeting that he will be able to tell the group that the test is in progress, so they are hoping to add a layer of communication, another tool in the toolbox if it works out well.	
SOA DOT	2. No representative available to provide an update.	
SOA All Others	3. Mr. Karl Edwards stated that he had nothing to add.	
DoD JBER	1. SSgt. Ray Dante stated they received an email, sometime last week, stating that their subscription was not paid and he wanted to follow up and see if that was still the case. Tim asked what the question was. SSgt. Dante stated that they received the email sometime last week stating that Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's (JBER) yearly subscription was not paid, and he wanted to see if that was still the case. Tim asked if payment was submitted. SSgt. Dante stated they submitted it on 17 July. Tammy asked if that was Scott S. responding because she could not tell who was answering the question. Tim stated it was him, and that he will have to check with Ms. Terri Warren if JBER paid or not, if JBER does not know. He noted it is a manual process, and it takes a while to move through Defense Finance Accounting Service (DFAS), so if you process the Miscellaneous Obligation Reimbursement Document called the MORD it could take 30 to 45 days to get through DFAS back to the state. Tim commented that if JBER is sure that they have processed the payment	



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DoD Eielson DoD US Army Installations	and it has been a month or so then he will check with Terri to see if she has received it. SSgt. Dante asked if Tim could check for them, because they sent it off 17 July from what he was told. Tim stated that he will check. SSgt. Dante thanked Tim and stated that was all from JBER Tim noted that he will send a follow up email. Tammy moved onto Eielson 2. TSgt. Preston Fernandez did not provide an update. 3. No representatives available to provide an update.	
Federal Non-DoD DOJ Federal Non-DoD DOI Federal Non-DoD All Others	1. No representatives available to provide an update. 2. No representatives available to provide an update. 3. Mr. Bob Carter stated that he had nothing for the good of the order.	
Munis-North Munis-Southeast Munis-Central	1. Deputy Chief Keith Berrian stated that he had nothing to add. 2. Ms. Erann Kalwara stated she did not have anything from Southeast 3. Mr. Jim Goodman briefed that Palmer deployed a crossband repeater at the Alaska State Fair in Palmer and found it to be a really good tool to backfill portable coverage. He noted that as wonderful as the system is supported by the state, there were just issues of terrain that they were able to overcome with using 700 into VHF. Jim asked Paul if he had anything else he would want to add to the information Jim sent Paul. Paul stated, through the chair, that he did not have anything to add but he could send that information out to anybody who was interested in it.	



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	Jim noted that it was very successful and if anybody has any questions, he would be glad to follow up with them. He thanked the Chair. Ms. Tammy Goggia-Cockrell stated that she did not have anything to add to Municipality Central. Tammy stated that brings the council to New Business and asked if anyone had any new business they would like to bring up.	
New Business	Discussion	Action Items Assigned
CISA	Paul noted that Mr. Bruce Richter, from Cybersecurity Infrastructure and Security Agency (CISA), would like to speak. Bruce briefed that he had just two updates in the cyber threat environment that he thought were relevant to this group or interest to this group. He stated that he has talked about the Salt Typhoon cyber campaign that the Chinese government has been operating, and it seems like every month is like reading a new chapter in the novel. Bruce noted that on August 27th, there was a joint advisory from multiple international partners and multiple United States agencies that really brought up the latest scope of what this campaign has been. He commented that initially, CISA heard about the four largest US telecom carriers and then they heard about the 10 largest US telecom carriers plus 13 university networks, but now it is known that at least 80 countries have been targeted through Salt Typhoon, and he has provided the link https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-08/CSA_COUNTERING_CHINA_STATE_ACTORS_COMPROMISE_OF_NETWORKS.pdf) that can go out in the meeting minutes because it is a longer document for people that are interested in reading it. Bruce stated that in the executive summary and the scale of this is beyond what was known or expected, and there are certain critical vulnerability indicators, certain indicators of compromise that are detailed in the report that was released on August 27th, right before Labor Day weekend. Bruce noted that the other thing that he thought was worth noting is that the state of Nevada is in the second week of a fairly significant ransomware attack, and they are still trying to recover from that, and it did impact some of the public safety systems. He stated	



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	that it impacted the public's ability to call into public safety dispatch, and he thought what it illustrates is that this threat is not going away. Bruce commented that in everyone's own agencies they should be asking what Primary, Alternate, Contingency, and Emergency (PACE) plans are there; if the primary systems that are depended on are not available to the agency, what is the contingency; and what is the backup to that. Bruce stated that these are real world problems that are here to stay. He commented that it was his update and thanked Madam Chair. Tammy stated that this was the last call for any New Business.	
Next Meeting	Discussion	
	Tammy briefed that the next meetings are currently scheduled for October 1 st and November 5 th .	
Adjournment	Discussion	
	Tammy asked if there was anything else anyone would like to offer before asking to adjourn. She stated that at this time she would accept a motion and a second from any one of the council members to adjourn the September 3rd User Council meeting. Motion: Adjourn the September 3, 2025, User Council meeting. Motion: Lt. Ben Endres Second: Deputy Chief Keith Berrian Tammy stated that the meeting was now adjourned and thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.	