



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



**MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council**

**July 15, 2021**

**FROM: DOD Co-Chair**

**SUBJECT: April 15 Meeting Minutes**

**TO: See Distribution**

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**Executive Council Members Present: (all members attended via teleconference)**

Colonel Matthew "Pudge" Davis	Department of Defense – ALCOM/J6
ASAC Adam Pierce	Alaska Federal Executive Association –
	Federal Bureau of Investigation
Deputy Chief Mike Kerle	Municipality of Anchorage – Anchorage
	Police Department

**ALMR Support Team Members and Guests Present:**

Mr. John Rockwell	User Council Chair
Mr. Chris Letterman	ALMR Operations Manager
Mr. Travis Conant	ALMR System Manager
Mr. Scott Stormo	SOA ALMR Program Manager
Mr. Timothy Woodall	ALMR PM/COR – ALCOM/J6
Mr. David Reed	Information Systems Security Manager
Mr. Tim Thometz	ICOM America
Ms. Sherry Shafer	Operations Management Office

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**1. Call to Order.** Colonel Matthew "Pudge" Davis, Department of Defense (DOD) Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The roll was read.

**2. Opening Statements and Other Announcements.** There were no opening statements or other announcements.

**3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.** Colonel Davis asked if the members had an opportunity to read the minutes from the January Executive Council meeting and if there were any requested changes.

**Motion: Approve the January 21, Executive Council meeting minutes, as written.**

Hearing no requests for changes Colonel Davis asked for a motion for approval. ASAC Adam Pierce made a motion for approval and Deputy Chief Michael Kerle seconded. There were no objections or further discussion. **The motion was carried and approved.**

**4. Old Business.**

a. SOA Quantar Replacement. Mr Stormo Scott stated they are meeting with Motorola every week and as the snow is starting to melt, they are getting back to the point where they are going to start trying to install some more GTR sites to replace our Quantars. He noted there are a total of 75 sites the state owns, so installation will probably begin again in earnest sometime around the middle of May and should run through most, if not all, of the summer and into the fall. Mr. Stormo advised there wasn't' really much more to offer at this point other than there's going to be outages ongoing throughout the summer and each one of those is, as seen from the ones that have been done in the past, are about 8 hours or so at a site when they're changing out the equipment. He also briefed the state has the contract for the upgrade of the system software and the DoD, and the Muni are pending contracts to do that. Scott stated once the Quantars are replaced, the master site updates would happen soon as all the partners have a contract in place.

b. State Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB). Mr. John Rockwell briefed there were no updates at this point for the state SIGB and they were still waiting for the Governor to digest the 9-1-1 working group information.

c. Long-term Cost Share Solution. Mr. Rockwell advised there were no updates from the January meeting at this time.

d. DOD Contract for System Upgrade. Mr. Timothy Woodall stated the Air Force was tracking the requirements and working the funding. He noted he still did not have a confirmed funding commitment from the Army but was still working on that and would keep them up to date. Mr. Woodall stated he understood the update is scheduled for the first part of Federal fiscal year 2022, but it was possible it could slip in the first quarter of next calendar year although it was being targeted for the last quarter of this calendar year. He added they were tracking that and understood the funding requirement and had the proposal from Motorola, which had been promulgated to the services to work the funding. Mr. Woodall promised to keep on top of this and then provide updates on a monthly basis.

Mr. Stormo added he knew Mr. Woodall was well aware of this, but oftentimes Motorola schedules these upgrades nine months to a year and a half in advance, so if there is not a contract in place, Motorola won't necessarily hold a slot open for ALMR on that on the calendar, beyond a certain point. He emphasized they couldn't

wait too long to get the contracts in place to and that Mr. Woodall understands what he was saying, and the Muni understands that as well.

e. Motorola Lifecycle Presentation. The presentation occurred at the January meeting and there were no follow-on actions. (CLOSED)

## **5. User Council Update.**

a. Mr. Rockwell briefed the ALMR User Council (UC) continues to meet monthly and is well attended and all positions are filled at this time. He noted highlights of the meeting are updates from the Operations Management Office, Chris Letterman, the System Management Office, Travis Conant, the State of Alaska, Scott Stormo, and the DOD, Tim Woodall. Mr. Rockwell added the theme of the past meetings has been focused on the ALMR upgrade and the need to switch to TDMA.

b. Mr. Rockwell briefed another topic many members of the UC and other subject matter experts have been working on updating our Statewide Communication Implementation Plan (SCIP). He explained the SCIP identifies strategic goals and objectives that represent priorities for delivering our vision for emergency communications interoperability and these goals and objectives focus on Governance, Technology, and Funding. Mr. Rockwell advised the goal is to deliver a final report in the early May timeframe.

## **6. Operations Management Office.**

a. Incident Command Zone Update. Mr. Chris Letterman briefed discussions continue on how best to utilize the new interop zones, particularly the central zone, which is because that area now encompasses a swath of the state that is so large. He added it has generated some conversations that needed to be had anyway. Mr. Letterman reported that at the February User Council meeting a member agency discussed some of the conversations that were going on within the central area among the members, agencies that have dispatch capabilities, so that is a good thing moving forward.

b. Logo Contest. Mr. Letterman explained he had intended to have something to be distributed with this package for April meeting; however, the designer Hoke Designs had not been able to turn it around in time. He anticipated seeing something very soon and as soon as it comes in, it would be distributed out to the Executive Council.

c. Outreach. Mr. Letterman stated he had completed all of the local and state agency outreach activities and it had been really good to get out in front of the organizations and hear the word of the customer. He noted the next group that he would be reaching out to is going to be the non-DOD federal agencies.

Mr. Letterman stated it was also worth mentioning during these outreach calls we discuss things like the TDMA upgrade and what that impact means to the agencies that are on ALMR and when that's going to happen. He advised there was some side

conversations from the Motorola presentation back in January that it would be good for the Executive Council to consider a final decision date of when TDMA capable subscriber units are the only subscriber units that will be allowed onto the system, and in some of the discussion that we have heard it was three to five years. Mr. Letterman stated the recommendation from the OMO would be five years from when the ALMR system becomes fully TDMA capable, which gives a lot of municipalities the runway to get it into the budget planning cycles. He added he wanted to start the conversation, so folks are comfortable with approving it when the time comes. Mr. Letterman emphasized there would need to be a date set eventually when FDMA radios are no longer allowed on the system.

Mr. Woodall advised one of the factors that is extremely critical in this decision is the funding for subscribers as the cost of an APX radio averages about \$5000 per unit and then getting TDMA added to that is an additional cost. He explained a lot of the organizations still have XTX5000s and those radios are at end of life and do need to be replaced, but there are also organizations that purchased APX6000s that can do at TDMA, but they didn't purchase the TDMA option.

Mr. Woodall briefed there is a funding situation that people are going to be facing in this in this process and he believed the focus should be on getting everyone the cost first. He suggested having Motorola help us through the process of making sure everyone understands what that cost is and then getting a funding push going on to ensure the agencies are receiving the funding and once we know that the agencies can get funding, then set a date. Mr. Woodall added the consideration in the thought process of a final date really needs to be thought through thoroughly as TDMA may not be something we want to have an absolute on, because some agencies financially not but may not be able to move to the new radio as fast or may have more long-term issues with getting funding.

Mr. Letterman conveyed this is not anything that is being treated lightly at all, but it is something that the EC needs to think about.

Colonel Davis asked if Motorola could provide the agencies a cost estimate and lock in those prices to give agencies the opportunity to know how much it's going to cost over time, because if all they have is a rough order of magnitude upfront and then the cost changes from year to year that's going to make it even harder to get to all the way to TDMA and eliminating FDMA. He added this was just a thought for discussion in the future, but something we need to consider and also to review costs and then timelines again.

Mr. Letterman agreed he liked the approach going back to Motorola and asking them to provide some costs to show to the agencies on the system, so they have at least an idea of what they're going to be up against. He also agreed that it would be best to try to lock prices in as well, because if agencies have a conversation with their finance department and then a year or two later the numbers have gone up by some factor, it is difficult to back out of that conversation.

d. Coverage and Site Prioritization. Mr. Letterman noted the survey was completed back in the fall and we sent out thanks to all the agencies that participated. He advised the next steps the OMO would be working with the Alaska Public Safety Communications Service and investigating ideas to address areas that were identified and also seeking out partnerships to either expand capacity or look at ideas for new sites.

e. Annual Inventory Confirmations. Mr. Letterman stated this is an exercise that the OMO manages each year that came from a legislative audit finding mandating the EC ensure agencies account for their subscribers. He noted the OMO oversees the process and letters go out every year and there is one form that agencies sign attesting that they have done their inventory of their radios. Mr. Letterman noted there were 90 responses and the deadline for response is April 30. He added the OMO has been sending out monthly reminders and began sending out weekly reminders in April. Mr. Letterman stated as we go into May, the OMO will be actually calling the agencies that haven't responded yet.

Colonel Davis requested a list of any DOD agencies who have not responded, and he would contact them directly.

f. Training. Mr. Letterman briefed the OMO has been working on our next virtual training course, which will feature interoperability introduction and it dovetails nicely with the interoperability zone change that was done earlier this year. He stated these trainings have been getting a lot of positive response from that from folks he does outreach calls and talks to folks they really appreciated being able to just point their individuals in their agencies to the website and they can sit down and watch. Mr. Letterman pointed out this was a very definite positive approach for training, and we are going to continue. He stated the other thing the OMO was working on an exploration on what we're calling video vignettes, which are small, short, single-topic video recordings, and the idea here is to produce a library of videos that run the gamut from programming to actual radio operation and radio use.

Mr. Letterman also shared the current trainer, Mr Joe Quickel with 5 Star Team, announced his retirement at the end of June, so the OMO is looking for individuals that might be interested in helping us continue the good work of training and producing these online training courses.

g. March System Metrics. Mr. Letterman shared for monthly calls, there were 1.2 million, which is up 170,000 calls from February and on the push to talks there were 2.2 million, which was up 333 thousand from the February statistics. He added for system busies there were 257 and that was up 86 from the February statistics and the subscriber count was now at 23,303 subscriber units on the system, up 31 units from February. Mr. Letterman noted that in this metric packet there was a new slide at the very back called sites below three nines and this is a metric to track those sites across the year that fall below the SAFECOM four nines specification. He stated this report runs a month behind, so instead of looking at March, we are looking at February and there were five sites on the list for that month.

**7. New Business.**

Mr. Rockwell stated he did not have any new business items but wanted to take just a quick moment and give Chris Letterman a shout out for the work that he's been doing, especially on the website and that he'd done a fabulous job and I just wanted to say thank you again. He encouraged those who have not been out to the new Alaska Land Mobile Radio Network website to do so.

**8. Next Meeting.** Colonel Davis briefed the next meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2020, at 1:30 at 5900 E. Tudor, and he would like to get together in person.

**9. Adjourn Meeting.** Colonel Davis asked if there were any other comments or anything to add to the meeting and hearing none, he made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion: Adjourn the April 15 Executive Council meeting.**

The motion was seconded by ASAC Pierce. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.



Matthew "Pudge" Davis, Colonel, USAF  
ALCOM J6  
ALMR Executive Council

**Distribution:**

SOA/DPS, Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan  
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SOA DMVA, Deputy Commissioner Craig Christenson  
SOA DMVA, Mr. Scott Stormo  
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MOA, Mr. Trygve Erickson  
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