



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

MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council

November 23, 2011

FROM: DOD Executive Co-Chair

SUBJECT: September 1, 2011, ALMR Executive Council Meeting Minutes

TO: See Distribution

Executive Council Members Present:

Colonel George Hays	Department of Defense (DOD), Alaskan Command
Commissioner Joe Masters	Commissioner, State of Alaska Department of Public Safety
US Attorney Karen Loeffler	Non-DOD Federal Agency Representative, Alaska Federal Executive Association
Chief Jeff Tucker	Alaska Municipal League (via teleconference)
Mr. Kevin Spillers	Municipality of Anchorage Office of Emergency Management (via teleconference)

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests Present:

Major Matt Leveque	User Council Chairman
Mr. Del Smith	Operations Manager
Mr. Jim Kohler	State of Alaska ALMR Program Manager
Mr. Tim Woodall	Department of Defense QA/QC
Ms. Sherry Shafer	Operations Management Office
Mr. Bruce Richter	Regional Office of Emergency Management Representative

1. Call to Order. Colonel George Hays, Department of Defense (DOD) Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

2. Opening Statements and Other Announcements. None.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes. Colonel Hays asked the Executive Council if they had reviewed the July minutes and if they had any requested changes. There was no discussion or comments. Colonel Hays requested a motion to approve the August minutes.

Motion: Approve July 21, 2011, Executive Council meeting minutes, as written.

The motion was made by Colonel George Hays and seconded by U.S. Attorney Karen Loeffler. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

4. Old Business.

a. Alaska Federal Executive Association (AFEA) Funding. Mr. Tim Woodall stated that the 673rd Communications Squadron had volunteered, as a test, to receive money from selected agencies to pay for the remainder of the Operations Management Contract. An Intra-Governmental Payment and Collection (IPAC) will be executed. Mr. Woodall stated he would follow up with the 673CS on September 6. **OPEN**

b. Army Site Equipment Divestiture. Mr. Woodall stated there was no update to provide since the last Executive Council meeting (July 21). No actions had been taken. The Alaska Command (ALCOM) is concerned because the State and U.S. Army-Alaska have not met to discuss how to transfer the equipment with regard to the first thirteen sites.

Mr. Jim Kohler advised that the State of Alaska (SOA) Department of Administration (DOA) had contracted for a third party agnostic review of the ALMR System against State standards. He stated the legislature was also getting ready to return to session and the document should be ready approximately mid September. Mr. Kohler advised that the document will be the foundation for State agencies to build the decision process on whether ALMR is the best option for the State and that the issue was not being ignored. He stated that there had to be a fundamental development of a course of action (COA).

Mr. Woodall stated, as a matter of discussion, that the Department of Defense (DOD) was under the impression that the SOA was accepting the equipment in the 13 sites effective January 1, 2012. He advised that the DOD needed something (a memorandum) that states how the acceptance process will be done (i.e. inventory, re-tagging equipment as SOA property, etc.). Mr. Woodall also stated to what degree the process is performed dictates the timeline required to accomplish it, and this needs to be addressed within the next couple of weeks.

Commissioner Masters stated that the last time the Executive Council met, it was his understanding that it was the State's intent to accept the equipment. Commissioner Masters mentioned to Col Hays that he had sent the note to him saying the State was willing to accept the equipment as well and Col Hays agreed he had received the note.

Mr. Woodall stated he would help facilitate the State talking to the Army, and asked who the State representative would be.

Mr. Kohler advised that he would take this forward to find the appropriate person.

Colonel Hays stated that Colonel Bollinger was the new U.S. Army-Pacific G6 and she needs to appoint an Army representative for a joint inventory with the State. Colonel Hays advised Mr. Kohler that he would like to give her an update out of today's meeting.

Mr. Kohler stated that he could not name a State appointee until an Anchorage appointee was named. **OPEN**

c. Service Level Agreement (SLA). Major Matt Leveque advised the Executive Council that the User Council had developed an addendum, per direction of the Executive Council at their July 21 meeting, to suspend certain portions of the SLA and replace those portions with language which coincides with the current contracts in place. The User Council had prepared the addendum, which was presented to the Executive Council for approval.

The Executive Council discussed the changes and had no objections to the prepared addendum and a motion was presented to approve it.

Motion: Accept the recommendation of the User Council to suspend portions of the Service Level Definitions regarding response times, as defined in the Tables 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3-8 and provide alternate language with regard to the current maintenance contract in place.

The motion was made by Colonel George Hays and seconded by Commissioner Joe Masters. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

CLOSED.

d. Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee (SIEC). At the July meeting, Mr. Tim Woodall recommended that the Executive Council add this item for discussion at the August meeting with regard to removing the associated language from the Executive Council Charter.

Subsequently, Mr. Woodall explained that the appointment of the SIEC was a condition of the FCC for approval of the spectrum sharing agreement waiver between State of Alaska (SOA) and the DOD. Therefore, the Executive Council was appointed as the SIEC at that time. He also explained that the SIEC is a function that is shared between the state and local representatives.

Chief Tucker stated that although the Executive Council was named as the SIEC in their charter, they had never met or functioned as an SIEC and that a more robust body like the State Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB) was more suited to the task. He

suggested the Executive Council discuss whether they should act as the SIEC or pass it back to the State of Alaska to form one and effectively deal with the issue of statewide interoperability.

Commissioner Masters pointed out that it could not be removed from the charter because it was inherently tied to the FCC waiver. Until such time as another body is formed and the duties were passed to them, it must remain with the Executive Council for now.

Colonel Hays agreed that the Executive Council should not be the SIEC due to the fact that there are other spectrum issues that do not involve ALMR that need to be addressed, and the Executive Council needs to divest itself of the function to whatever body is appointed.

Discussion on who should take the responsibility occurred but in the end, it was agreed upon that representatives from the State Department of Administration, Department of Public Safety, Division of Military and Veteran Affairs and local agencies needed to get together and discuss the issue. Ultimately, the governor would need to weigh in.

Major Leveque stated that the FCC waiver did not reference the Federal agencies so it was not an issue that needed to be resolved at the moment. The process was not broken, but ultimately there needed to be an interoperable governance body.

Chief Tucker stated the transition team recommended to the governor that coordination should occur between local and state agencies.

Mr. Jim Kohler stated that he would meet with Major Leveque to discuss the issue and decide what actions should take place, how the Executive Council can remove itself, and what agency would gain the responsibility, whether it be the Alaska Interoperability Coordinating Committee (AKICC) or the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). **OPEN**

5. ALMR Status.

a. Mr. Woodall stated he had nothing to brief. However, he recommended removing this area from the agenda. He stated that any operational matters could be briefed elsewhere.

b. Mr. Kohler agreed with Mr. Woodall's assessment of the status updates.

Motion: Remove "ALMR Status" as an item for discussion from the Executive Council agenda format and incorporate DOD and SOA discussion items into other areas.

The motion was made by Colonel George Hays and seconded by Commissioner Joe Masters. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

6. User Council Update.

a. Federal Non-DOD Alternate position. Major Leveque briefed that Mr. Alvin Flowers has been nominated to replace Mr. Jim Caldwell on the User Council in the Federal Non-DOD All Others alternate position.

Motion: Accept the appointment of Mr. Alvin Flowers as the Alternate Federal Non-DOD All Others (TSA) representative to the ALMR User Council.

The motion was made by U.S. Attorney Loeffler and seconded by Colonel Hays. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

b. Mt Sunny Hay. In June, the Mt Sunny Hay site was activated at the request of the ALMR Operations Management Office (OMO) to support an exercise by the Alaska National Guard.

The Alaska State Troopers (AST) and the Department of Transportation and Public Services (DOT) were able to utilize the site at that time, as well. At the completion of the exercise, the site was turned back off.

Both AST and DOT were extremely pleased with the extended coverage it provided and the User Council believes the continued operation of the site would benefit, not only AST and DOT, but other Public Safety agencies in the area.

The User Council has sent a memorandum to the Director of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) requesting permanent activation of the Mt Sunny Hay site. Subsequently, SOA ETS has no maintenance funds to support the site and it will remain turned off.

Major Leveque stated that currently there were on-going discussions between ETS and DOT as to whether funds could be found to turn on the Mt Sunny Hay site.

Commissioner Masters asked if there was a possibility of creating a funding allocation in the future for ALMR. He is concerned about the precedent of breaking off a piece of it and funding it through a different source.

Major Leveque agreed but cautioned that if ETS continues to get jammed for funding for all the sites, the issue may come down to who wants a particular site and are they willing to pay for it.

Mr. Kohler stated, as a point of clarification, that this site was being discussed fragmentally because it was built without ETS management's knowledge until such time as it was turned on. ETS has no maintenance funds for this site. ETS is already challenged to find the money to put into the current System.

Commissioner Masters stated that the addition of Mt Sunny Hay was a huge improvement in coverage.

Mr. Kohler advised that it was the ETS' desire was to find the money to get the site turned on.

7. Operations Management Office.

a. Mr. Del Smith presented the July System metrics to the Executive Council. He stated that the three channel sites continue to be heavily impacted during incidents/accidents.

b. P25 Technology Interest Group (PTIG). Mr Smith stated he had been appointed to the Board of Directors and that he had traveled to Philadelphia to attend the meeting. He advised the Executive Council the trip was not funded with ALMR travel funds.

c. USARAK Equipment Divesture. Mr. Smith advised the Executive Council that it was pertinent that the OMO get accurate information regarding the divestiture of USARAK equipment in SOA shelters. There was currently rumors going around that the Army was leaving ALMR altogether.

Colonel Hays stated he had seen the email from Mr. Smith and he agreed that the Executive Council also needed to clarify on-going actions and squash rumors whenever things like this came up.

8. New Business.

a. ALMR System Life Cycle and Update. Based upon the current technology release (7.1.1), ALMR infrastructure is ten technology versions behind. Briefings were provided in July to the Department of Defense, the State of Alaska and local agencies, and the Executive Council.

Colonel Hays stated an update of the infrastructure is required to correct several critical issues and everyone must do the update together or it cannot happen. The Update Cost Proposal provided to the Executive Council showed the difference between the one-time System update and the System update with operations and maintenance (O & M) sustainment.

Mr. Woodall advised the Executive Council that at the time ALMR was built (2000) the technology was already 15 years old, and the current System equipment life cycle is good until 2019. However, he stated, certain pieces of equipment will become non-supportable between 2012 and 2019; there will be no more spares. Additionally, many parts that were utilized were commercial off-the-shelf items and their technology is out dated. Mr. Woodall stated that land mobile radio (LMR) systems are computer-controlled networks with specific operating systems. Much like current IT systems, which need to be replace or refreshed periodically, ALMR has reached that point.

Microsoft[®], Sun Systems[®] and Linux[®] are all discontinuing support of the software utilized for ALMR starting in 2014. Additionally, he advised that after June 2012, Motorola[®] will no longer pre-test the patches to security issues, which makes the System vulnerable to outside threats.

Mr. Woodall advised the council that discussions must occur between the parties on the approach, which update they will take, or if they will do nothing.

Major Leveque asked what would happen if the Anchorage Wide Area Radio Network (AWARN) didn't update and ALMR did, would they still be able to communicate with ALMR.

Mr. Woodall advises that they could still communicate, but only through a MotoBridge[®] connection.

Mr. Kevin Spillers requested to talk to Mr. Woodall offline about this issue; he was interest in the implications of Major Leveque's question.

Mr. Woodall re-emphasized the point that everyone had to move forward collectively with the update, or not at all. He recommended a sub-committee be formed or those agencies impacted meet fairly quickly to discuss the issue.

Colonel Hays asked if the State had broached this issue.

Commissioner Masters stated that they had discussed it since the previous meeting and realized the criticality of the issue and that it was a tight time sequence.

Mr. Woodall reminded the Executive Council that the DOD had funded the previous two updates since the System was built with the help of Senator Ted Stevens. He also advised that both Senator Lisa Murkowski and Senator Mark Begich had been informed of the shortfalls; however, no funding had not been provided yet and they did not expect to see any from Congressional inserts based on what they had heard. Mr. Woodall stated a risk assessment is required soon.

Commissioner Masters asked if the DOD was already moving forward and Colonel Hays advised him that both the Air Force and the Army had been briefed; however, neither one had any funds to cover this update yet either.

Mr. Woodall stated that in the 2008 Total Cost of Ownership Study, updates were projected to be performed every three years. The cost of these was previously recognized as a capital investment and requests for funding should be moved into O & M.

b. FY13 Cost Share. Mr. Woodall suggested that discussions should begin on the Cost Share Agreement, reference July 1, 2012. He asked that with the material ownership balance changing, would there be a new approach and thresholds, and how

would O&M continue to be addressed. Mr. Woodall noted the outcome of these discussions could also affect whether an update should/would happen. He suggested that each partner propose several COAs and then blend them into a final set, listing the pros and cons of each. From there, they should pick the best one. DOD would also need to look at the impact of any cost share methodologies presented by the State.

Mr. Kohler stated that under the A87 rule, whatever cost share method was established, it would have to be universally applied to all agencies across the System.

Both the State and the DOD took a task to develop COAs, meet and vet them out, and decide on a methodology.

9. Next Meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for September 15 but the Executive Council agreed to postpone until October. The OMO would send out an email requesting availability of the council members and a date would be set after such time.

10. Adjourn Meeting. Commissioner Masters made the motion to adjourn and U.S. Attorney Loeffler seconded. There were no objections and the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

11/28/2011

X  //Signed//

GEORGE W. HAYS, Colonel, USAF
Department of Defense Executive Council Co-Chair
ALMR Executive Council

Distribution:

ALCOM/J6, Colonel George Hays
SOA DPS, Commissioner Joseph Masters
AFEA, U.S. Attorney Karen Loeffler
AML, Chief Jeff Tucker
MOA, Mr. Kevin Spillers
SOA DOA Deputy Commissioner John Cramer
ALMR User Council, Major Matthew Leveque
ALMR OMO, Mr. Del Smith
ALCOM/J64, Mr. Timothy Woodall
SOA DOA, Mr. James Kohler
MOA, Mr. Trygve Erickson