



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

**MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council**

**December 15, 2011**

**FROM: DOD Executive Co-Chair**

**SUBJECT: November 23, 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

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

Mr. Pat Shier	Director, Enterprise Technology Services (via teleconference)
Mr. Tom Nelson	Deputy Director, Enterprise Technology Services (via teleconference)
Major Matt Leveque	User Council Chairman
Mr. Del Smith	Operations Manager
Mr. Ken Kucharzak	ALCOM J6 Operations Division Chief
Mr. Tim Woodall	Department of Defense QA/QC
Ms. Sherry Shafer	Operations Management Office
Mr. John Lynn	Enterprise Technology Services (via teleconference)
Ms. Sharon White	Enterprise Technology Services (via teleconference)

- 1. Call to Order.** Colonel George Hays, Department of Defense (DOD) Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.
- 2. Opening Statements and Other Announcements.** None.

**3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.** Colonel Hays asked if there were any requested changes to the September minutes. There were none.

Colonel Hays requested a motion to approve the September minutes.

**Motion: Approve September 1, 2011, Executive Council meeting minutes, as written.**

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

Colonel Hays asked if there were any requested changes to the October minutes. There were none.

**Motion: Approve October 17, 2011, Executive Council meeting minutes, as written.**

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

#### **4. Old Business.**

a. Alaska Federal Executive Association (AFEA) Funding. Mr. Tim Woodall briefed the council that only 2 of the 14 Alaska Federal Executive Association (AFEA) agencies had returned the Inter-service Agreements at that time. He stated that the two agencies were the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Mr. Woodall advised the council that the request had been distributed to the agencies in late August with a reminder in September for submission not later than September 30. The suspense was then later re-scheduled for November 15. Mr. Woodall stated that the extent of coordination required might be part of the problem since the FAA package had to go to the national level for coordination and signature.

Commissioner Masters asked what would happen if the agencies did not pay their portion. Mr. Woodall stated that if sanctions were recommended, the agency radios could be shut off.

Colonel Hays asked what the total shortfall amounted to. Mr. Woodall stated it was approximately \$68K.

Commissioner Masters asked what affect the shortfall would have. Mr. Del Smith advised the council that the Operations Management Office was funded through the end of the calendar year. After such time, no Executive Council or User Council support would be provided, and the ALMR Insider newsletter would not be published.

Major Matt Leveque asked if it was possible to follow up with the regional points of contact. Mr. Smith stated that it seemed to be a bureaucratic issue within the agencies themselves, and at which level it could be addressed at seemed to be the big sticking point.

Colonel Hays asked the group how the Executive Council could best address the issue to the regional senior leaders and would it be beneficial if the council sent out a memo. Mr. Woodall stated he could draft up a memo with the details and background that could go to the Federal Non-DOD Executive Council Co-Chair to send out to the heads of each organization. **OPEN**

b. Army Site Equipment Divestiture. Colonel Hays stated that the divestiture was also tangled up in bureaucratic issues. He stated U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) provides the funds to Alaska forces to operate although the 59th Signal Battalion is the property owner of the site equipment that is to be divested. The package regarding the divestiture is currently at the Headquarters Army G4 and NETCOM level for coordination and approval of the process. Colonel Hays advised that he had asked Colonel Bollinger (USARPAC G6) if the inventory could take place ahead of time but she had told him it could not because the process had to be approved first.

Director Pat Shier stated that once the Army has tuned up the process, the Department of Administration (DOA) is ready to receive the equipment. However, he stated that he still needed to have further conversations with the Operations Management Office (OMO), System Management Office (SMO), and Bering Straits on maintenance.

Colonel Hays reminded everyone that there were only 39 days left to complete the inventory or establish alternate agreements regarding the transfer.

Director Shier stated that DOA is willing to work with the Department of Defense to make this transition occur smoothly.

Colonel Hays stated that Lt Gen Hogue, the new Commander, Alaskan Command (ALCOM) was meeting with U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM) and U.S. Army-Alaska (USARAK) on Monday (November 28) and he thought that it had the appropriate level of attention at this time. He suggested that the State have internal discussions in case the inventory issue was not resolved by the end of the calendar year and come up with a list of provisions that would be acceptable to them.

Commissioner Masters asked if the transfer did not occur would USARAK continue break/fix maintenance until the transfer.

Colonel Hays reminded the council that the divestiture date had already slipped six months, from June 30, 2011 to January 1, 2012. The Army would not have the funds to continue break/fix after such time.

Commissioner Masters asked if the State would assume responsibility for the maintenance on January 1, 2012, regardless of whether or not the equipment transfer occurred.

Director Shier stated that DOA had negotiated with Bering Straits to take over maintenance on January 1 with the divestiture. He advised that even if something happens and the paperwork is not signed, the State would make it work.

Mr. Woodall suggested that perhaps the State could request a waiver for the physical inventory of the equipment until the spring due to weather conditions.

Director Shier stated he was in favor of signing a document to that affect and keeping the people who would be responsible for the inventory out of harm's way.

Colonel Hays stated that they would need to get the Army to agree to those provisions but that he would continue to press them. **OPEN**

c. ALMR System Lifecycle Management and Upgrade. Mr. Woodall stated that the Army was working the funding for the spring of 2012 timeframe and that the Air Force was prepared to request funds at this time.

Director Shier stated that DOA had asked for the funding from the Legislature and that they expected to receive it.

Colonel Hays asked if any discussions regarding the 13 sites to be divested - on including them in the State's portion of the upgrade - had met with contention at the Legislative level.

Director Shier stated it had not and that they had requested a total of \$3.5M.

Mr. Woodall reminded the council that they still needed the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) to do their portion of they would not be able to talk to the rest of the System.

Mr. Smith stated that he had talked to Mr. Kevin Spillers and that he and Mr. Casey Borg (the System Manager) were going to meet with him next week (November 29) to give him a more detailed explanation on what the upgrade provides. **OPEN**

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

Major Leveque briefed that Mr. Leon Morgan has been nominated to replace Mr. Doug Schoenwald, who had retired some time ago, on the User Council in the State of Alaska All Others primary position.

**Motion: Accept the appointment of Mr. Leon Morgan as the Primary State of Alaska (SOA) All Others representative to the ALMR User Council.**

Mr. Smith advised the Executive Council that he had also recommend Mr. Morgan to attend the International Wireless Communications Expo (IWCE) in February 2012 to sit on the Project 25 (P25) panel. He felt Mr. Morgan was uniquely qualified due to his involvement with ALMR and the fact that he was also the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) for the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC).

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

Mr. Smith presented the October System metrics to the Executive Council. He stated there were no significant trends in October to report. Mr. Smith advised the council that there had been two major outages during November so far. The first one occurred on November 3 when the Tudor Tower site went down for 20 minutes due to a power outage. The site went on battery back-up and there were no alarms to alert the ETS technicians to this fact. The second one occurred on November 19. The Sterling site lost commercial power and the generator had been disabled due to deferred maintenance. When the batteries failed it took down all 19 sites on the Kenai Peninsula for one and a half hours until a contractor could get to the site and bring it back up.

Mr. Smith emphasized that the funding bodies needed to understand that SATS and ALMR had a symbiotic relationship and they cannot skimp on maintenance. If SATS is not working, then ALMR is not going to work. He advised the council that the 7.9 System Update offers the opportunity for multiple paths, which provides the network with a self-healing capability.

Commissioner Masters stated that the ALMR System is a critical lifeline and these two failures highlight the concerns with the maintenance and how it will be accomplished under the future governance structure. He stated both DPS and DOA are committed to sharing the burden of delivering the message to the Legislature that ALMR is a mission-critical system, and that both it and SATS must be maintained equally.

Director Shier stated that the Division of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) was looking into an internal process to ensure that the approval to spend funds in an emergency is appropriately delegated in the future.

## **7. New Business.**

a. Mr. Smith advised the council that there was a System Change Request for the new 700MHz site at Goose Creek Correctional Center requiring signature. He stated it was an "after the fact" request for a site that SOA ETS built and ALMR found out about just a few ago. He requested the Executive Council members sign at the close of the meeting.

b. Mr. Woodall advised the council that because the military services were dealing with dwindling budgets, they would need an idea of their cost share

portions for 2012. He recommended that the Executive Council form a sub-committee to work with the State to develop several cost share approaches and methods, as had been done in 2008, and then come to a conclusion and agreement fairly quickly so the DOD and the Federal Non-DOD agencies could adjust their requirements, if necessary.

Mr. Woodall also reminded the council that with regard to the paying agencies, they must keep in mind that when considering charges, they must look at the impact to the agency, if the charges are tolerable, and limit the charges to the greatest possible extent. The potential methods must be examined closely and agreed upon by all the parties because the funds would need to be requested and available by May 1, 2012 to support the next State fiscal year contracts.

Colonel Hays suggested that one member from each of the areas - DOD, Federal Non-DOD, State, and local - be on the sub-committee to represent everyone's interests.

Director Shier stated time is of the essence. He advised the council that a recent study funded by DOA confirmed that ALMR is the way forward for the users. He also stated that DOA had been discussing different ideas such as talk-time fees or per radio charges. Director Shier stated that the timing of the sub-committee worked well because he could advise the Legislature that the discussions are taking place.

Colonel Hays asked Director Shier if he would appoint someone or if he would be the member. Director Shier stated he would be the one but if he was unavailable that his Deputy, Mr. Tom Nelson, would sit in for him. Colonel Hays stated that Mr. Woodall would be the representative for ALCOM and that he would approach the Army and Air Force to get names by the end of next week. He suggested that Director Shier and Mr. Woodall discuss a possible agenda and that this process should start within the next two weeks.

Commissioner Masters stated he would defer to Major Leveque as his representative and that a representative for the Alaska Municipal League (AML) should also be included. He suggested Chief Jeff Tucker. He also suggested that the sub-committee discussions should include individuals with an operational aspect such as the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Department of Transportation (DOT).


Colonel Hays stated that the DOD would need to get any proposed amounts to their headquarters' bill payers for approval. He asked Director Shier if the State had any deadlines they were up against.

Director Shier stated that he would like to see a consensus before the next User Council meeting and it would be nice to have this all nailed down by January. He

also stated he would check with their Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on what their deadline date is.

**8. Next Meeting.** The next meeting is scheduled December 15. Colonel Hays stated that the meeting would be coordinated based on the availability of the council members and a date would be set after such time.

**9. Adjourn Meeting.** Colonel Hays adjourned the meeting at 2:38 p.m.



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