



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



**MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council**

**February 16, 2012**

**FROM: DOD Executive Co-Chair**

**SUBJECT: December 15, 2011, ALMR Executive Council Meeting Minutes**

**TO: See Distribution**

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**Executive Council Members Present:**

Colonel George Hays	Department of Defense (DOD) Alaskan Command
Commissioner Joe Masters	State of Alaska (SOA) Department of Public Safety
Assistant Special Agent in Charge Darrin Jones	Alaska Federal Executive Association (AFEA) Federal Bureau of Investigations
Chief Jeff Tucker	Alaska Municipal League (AML) North Star Volunteer Fire Department (via teleconference)
Mr. Kevin Spillers	Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Office of Emergency Management (via teleconference)

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

Mr. Pat Shier	Director, Enterprise Technology Services
Deputy Chief Brad Johnson	User Council, Vice Chairman
Mr. Del Smith	Operations Manager
LTC Mike Brown	ALCOM/J60, Deputy J6
Mr. Tim Woodall	Department of Defense PM/QA/QC
Mr. Bruce Richter	Regional Office of Emergency Management Representative
Ms. Sherry Shafer	Operations Management Office

1. **Call to Order.** Colonel George Hays, Department of Defense (DOD) Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

2. **Opening Statements and Other Announcements.** Colonel Hays welcomed Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) Darrin Jones to the Executive Council as the newly appointed Federal Non-DOD representative for the Alaska Federal Executive Association.

3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.** Colonel Hays asked the Executive Council if they had reviewed the November minutes and if they had any requested changes. There was no discussion or comments.

**Motion: Approve November 23, 2011, Executive Council meeting minutes, as written.**

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

4. **Old Business.**

a. Alaska Federal Executive Association (AFEA) Funding. Colonel Hays requested Mr. Tim Woodall update the Executive Council on this item. Mr. Woodall stated there has been no change in the status of the funds transfer from the Federal Non-DOD agencies and it was unlikely any transfers would occur by Friday, which was the requested date.

Mr. Del Smith explained that Wostmann/5 Star, whose contract the funds were to be applied to, were to discuss the issue later in the afternoon. However, on the interagency agreements they received some of the coding was incomplete.

ASAC Darrin Jones asked what the process was for requesting and collecting the funds.

Colonel Hays stated that the Federal Non-DOD portion for FY11 was approximately \$68K and that it was an issue of finding the mechanism to transfer the funds and not the agencies willingness to pay that was the issue.

ASAC Jones stated he was willing to step in and assist in whatever way he could. He said he could contact those agencies that had not transferred funds yet.

Mr. Woodall stated he would send the information on the remaining 13 agencies.

b. Army Site Equipment Divestiture. Colonel Hays gave a brief history behind the U.S. Army participation in ALMR and the mission change that led to the divestiture of equipment to the State.

Mr. Woodall explained to the council that the U.S. Army in Hawaii has instructed the U.S. Army in Alaska to perform a complete inventory of the equipment to be divested not later

than the end of the calendar year. The 59th Signal Battalion will be the Army representative to conduct the inventory. Currently, no State representative has been identified. The Army has stated that they must do the inventory regardless of whether a State representative accompanies them, or not.

Commissioner Masters asked if anyone at ETS had been talking about it.

Mr. Smith stated not to his knowledge.

Mr. Woodall stated Ms. Julie Pannone, ALMR Asset Manager, could go if the State accepts her as their representative. He advised that State pays half of the Bering Straits Information Technology (BSIT) contract which is applied to the System Management Office function but the Army would need a letter appointing her to do so. Mr. Woodall advised that there were three possible courses the State could take: 1) the State could assign someone to accompany the Army; 2) Ms. Pannone could act as their agent; or 3) the State could waive the inventory.

Director Pat Shier stated that State would accept Ms. Pannone as their representative.

Mr. Woodall stated the Army would need a letter and he would draft one for Director Shier to put on State letterhead and that he would also notify the Army of the State's decision.

Director Shier also stated that the State was prepared to fund the 13 sites in break/fix and effective July 1, 2012, return the State-owned sites to a regularly scheduled periodic maintenance inspection schedule. He advised that Mr. Jim Kohler should have been in contact with BSIT regarding this.

Commissioner Masters stated that he was very concerned about the level of maintenance being provided for SATS and historically it had been substandard.

Director Shier stated the past month and a half was certainly not the State's best moment with SATS, but money had been committed, \$3M over the past two years, and funds had also been requested in the FY13 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). He said the State also hoped to generate some costs savings by coordinating maintenance with other site visits. Director Shier also stated that the State was working with DOT on possibly taking over some of the plant maintenance so ETS could focus on the core competencies.

c. ALMR System Life Cycle and Update. Colonel Hays asked Mr. Woodall if there were any updates.

Mr. Woodall stated there was no change in status but that both the Air Force and Army were seeking funding. He stated that in order to get the contract in place, they would need approximately a six-month lead. This meant that the funds needed to be identified no later than the March timeframe. Mr. Woodall emphasized that all the involved parties would need to update at the same time

Director Shier stated that the Department of Administration had requested the State's portion of the funding for the update and they were also trying to identify funds under the CIP, but there was still some work to do with regard to funding for the Operations Management Office and System Management Office contracts.

Mr. Spillers stated he would recommend to the Anchorage Administration to consider seeking funding for their portion.

Colonel Hays stated as the cooperative worked through the cost share discussion, these were all things they would need to keep in mind and discuss.

**5. User Council Update.** Deputy Chief Brad Johnson, User Council Vice Chair, stated he was sitting in for Major Matt Leveque who was out of state.

Deputy Chief Johnson announced that Major Leveque had been re-elected to the Chair position. He also announced that after serving for six years he was finally getting a break and that Mr. Pete Murphy, Federal Bureau of Investigations-Anchorage, had been elected to the Vice Chair position and would assume office in January.

Deputy Chief Johnson stated he would still be serving on the User Council as the Municipalities-North representative.

**6. Operations Management Office (OMO).**

a. Mr. Del Smith stated that the recent outages had been brutal. ALMR had lost 19 sites in Zone 1 on November 3 due to the Tudor Tower losing commercial power then the batteries dying, all which occurred and no alarms existed to notify the ETS staff.

Mr. Smith advised that on November 16, ALMR lost 16 sites on the Kenai Peninsula for two and a half hours when the Sterling site lost commercial power and the generator had been disabled due to a part not being installed. ETS failed to take immediate action and dispatch a contractor, because they had to wait for approval from Juneau. Then again on December 4, during extreme winds, ALMR lost 12 sites and ETS ultimately rerouted the connectivity but it took in excess of 24 hours.

Mr. Smith stated that on December 8 both generators at Tsina failed causing Divide, Valdez and Heney Range to go into site trunking. Then on the December 12 Wolcott was experiencing power issues and the batteries were not charging; and Hope, Silvertip, and Rabbit Creek were running on generators due to commercial power issues. Del advised responses to many of the sites were delayed due to weather. Del emphasized that ALMR is vital to both AST and DOT, and that it is interdependent upon the SATS system, and that allowing SATS to continue in its current state of disrepair is not acceptable when both public safety personnel and the general public's welfare depend on it.

b. Mr. Smith stated Mr. Casey Borg had advised him there was no contract in place for monitoring or maintenance of the 13 sites to be divested or for Mt Sunny Hay.

Director Shier stated he would meet with Mr. Borg after the meeting to resolve the issue.

c. Mr. Smith presented the System metrics to the council and stated that the increase in busies was due in part to the State updating the microwave system. Also, the recent site failures had increased the numbers.

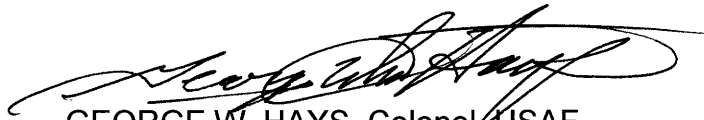
Director Shier stated while talking with Mr. Leon Morgan, DHS&EM, and the State technicians, the question came up that if you continue to key the mic after you receive a "busy" notice, does this keep elevating the busy numbers. He asked Mr. Smith if this was correct.

Mr. Smith stated he would check with the System Management Office after the meeting and get back to him.

7. **New Business.** There was none.

8. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2012, 1:30 p.m. at the Department of Public Safety Training/Conference Room, 5700 E Tudor Road.

9. **Adjourn Meeting.** Colonel Hays adjourned the meeting at 2:16 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, ASAC Darrin Jones  
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