



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



MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council

September 19, 2013

FROM: DOD Executive Co-Chair

SUBJECT: August 15, 2013, ALMR Executive Council Meeting Minutes

TO: See Distribution

Executive Council Members Present:

Colonel Scott Moser	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
Lt Ken Spadafora	Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) - Anchorage Police Department

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests Present:

Major Matt Leveque	User Council Chairman - Alaska State Troopers (via teleconference)
Mr. Del Smith	Operations Manager, ALMR
Mr. Jim Kohler	ETS Telecommunications Special Projects Administrator
Mr. Tim Woodall	Department of Defense QA/QC
Mr. Max McGrath	Operations Director, Enterprise Technology Services (ETS)
Mr. Joe Quickel	ALMR Training Coordinator
Ms. Sharon White	Enterprise Technology Services (via teleconference)
Ms. Sherry Shafer	Operations Management Office (via

teleconference)

1. **Call to Order.** Colonel Scott Moser, Department of Defense (DOD) Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.
2. **Opening Statements and Other Announcements.** Colonel Moser asked if there were any announcements. There were none.
3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.** Colonel Moser asked the Executive Council (EC) if they had reviewed the May meeting minutes and if they had any requested changes. Hearing no changes, Colonel Moser requested a motion for their approval.

Motion: Approve May 16, 2013, Executive Council meeting minutes, as written.

The motion to accept the minutes was made by Commissioner Joe Masters and seconded by Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) Darrin Jones. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

4. **Old Business.**

a. Operations Management Office (OMO) FY14 contract. Colonel Moser asked Mr. Woodall for an update. Mr. Woodall stated the contract had been awarded to the State of Alaska (SOA) by the DOD. SOA had solicited proposals and had chosen Westmann and Associates, who received a three-year contract to provide the OMO services.

b. System Upgrade Assistance (SUA). Mr. Woodall advised the council the migration was 99 percent complete. The System still needed to be locked down and scans run to complete the Defense Information Assurance Certification and Accreditation Process (DIACAP). He informed the council this was expected to be completed by the end of September.

Colonel Moser asked if any problems were expected and Mr. Woodall stated there were not.

5. **User Council Update.**

Major Matt Leveque stated there were no updates from the User Council (UC) for this meeting.

6. **Operations Management Office.**

a. 7.13 System Migration. Mr. Del Smith briefed the council the migration had gone very smoothly. The dispatch centers had their contingency plans and alternate

communications systems in place prior to the start of the event. He advised that ETS also had helicopters standing by in case they had to fly to any of the sites to resolve critical issues. Mr. Smith briefed the software download (SWDL) process took approximately seven hours and began at 5:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 6. He gave accolades to the Motorola™ teams who were stationed in three locations around the state in order to react to any unforeseen issues.

b. Clear Site. Mr. Smith advised the Clear site equipment had been removed and was in the possession of the System Management Office (SMO). The SMO technicians would be utilizing it to practice upgrading a site to the new software platform. He advised his understanding was the equipment would ultimately be transferred to SOA.

Colonel Moser asked whose property books the equipment was on and Mr. Woodall stated it belonged to the Air Force.

c. State of Alaska Audit. Mr. Smith briefed the council he had not heard anything from the auditor in several weeks.

Mr. Jim Kohler advised the last he had heard regarding the report was approximately two weeks ago. It was in the wind down stage and the normal process was to send a pre-audit report out for comments. He expects it to be a few more months before the report is finalized.

d. FY14 Membership Agreement. Mr. Smith advised the council all Membership Agreements had been completed with the exception of Clear AFS. He stated the active duty personnel only utilize the System sporadically but the National Guard unit who provides security protection for the installation utilizes the System heavily and they were looking into establishing their own separate agreement.

Mr. Smith advised the UC was informed of the non-compliance by Clear AFS to have a valid agreement in place to continue operating on the System. He provided the following motion passed by the UC and advised the Executive Council the OMO was looking for a similar motion from them in order to complete the process of removing the Clear AFS subscribers from ALMR.

Motion: Recommend the removal of all subscribers assigned to Clear Air Force Station from the System, with 30 days written notice, due to non-compliance with the ALMR Cooperative Agreement, Article 11, Section 6, "All Users of the System will be required to enter into a written user agreement between the user and the Executive Council, or their designated Executive Agent."

Colonel Moser stated he was unaware of this issue and would like to make a phone call to the Clear leadership to give them one last opportunity to comply. The motion was not put forth by the council.

Mr. Woodall advised the council when he had last spoke to the personnel at Clear, they had stated they were not going to utilize ALMR but would use their conventional system instead.

e. July Metrics. Mr. Smith briefed the council the System had once again exceeded a million push-to-talks. He stated busies had dropped significantly but the June increase had been an anomaly due to an exercise at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER). Mr. Smith advised there was still a great concern regarding the Tok, Glennallen, Nenana and Willow Mountain three-channel sites that were being hammered during this fire season and hopefully they could be upgraded before next year's fire season.

Major Leveque stated the Alaska State Troopers (AST) had been heavily involved during the Stuart Creek 2 fire evacuations and there was no coverage along the Chena Hot Springs Road area. He asked why the transportables couldn't be deployed in situations like this. There is this incredible capability but it can't be rolled 30 miles down the road due to rules regarding their use.

Mr. Smith stated back in 2006, he recalled they tried to come up with the means for the SOA to take possession of one of them but the National Guard said no.

Mr. Woodall advised the original concept was devised between Lt Gen Gamble and MG Campbell at that time but the Nation Guard Bureau threw a wrench into the transfer when they provided the Guard with the Joint Communications Interoperability Package. He explained this was a backpack-portable communications system and the National Guard then decided they would not accept one of the transportable units.

Mr. Woodall briefed both transportable communications systems belong to US Northern Command (NORTHCOM) and the DOD does not have the funds or the manpower to maintain and operate them on a regular deployment basis. The expanded capabilities of the systems are dedicated toward the DOD mission.

Colonel Moser stated ultimately a disaster has to be declared to legally deploy one of the transportable units; Mr. Woodall advised the most General Handy can deploy a system for is 72 hours then he has to get approval from the Assistant Secretary of Defense Homeland Defense.

ASAC Jones briefed the Federal Bureau of Investigations would be highly supportive of a joint exercise utilizing the transportable system if one could be scheduled.

Colonel Moser advised the Transportable Area South (TAS) was deploying to Valdez next week for an exercise in conjunction with the Valdez Fire Department. He stated it would also deploy next April for exercise Arctic Shield.

Mr. Woodall advised it would probably be fairly easy to establish a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with SOA to increase loading capacity at a site if SOA agreed to pay for the transport.

Major Leveque briefed that the Stuart Creek 2 fire was outside of ALMR coverage and one of the transportables could have provided satellite service. Mr. Woodall advised it probably could have reached back to the current ALMR system and extended coverage into the un-served area.

Mr. Woodall advised in the long term the council should consider looking into establishing an MOA on its use for these types of scenarios. It would have to go through both the DOD and SOA legal offices to lay out the terms of use.

Motion: Establish a Memorandum of Agreement between Joint Task Force-Alaska (JTF-AK) and the Executive Council, which represents State, Federal and local agencies, in non-declared emergency disasters to have access to the ALMR transportable communications system resources.

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

f. Operations Management Office/System Management Office Budget. Mr. Smith advised the OMO had finalized the FY15 Budget and the UC had approved it at their July meeting. He requested the council approve it for submission into the SOA budget process.

Mr. Smith explained the budget contained the operating costs of the current contracts, as well as unfunded items such as the SUA II lifecycle costs.

Mr. Woodall explained the SUA II would keep the System at the most current technology platform and all three entities - DOD, SOA and the Municipality of Anchorage - would have to execute a new contract. He stated this lifecycle approach would provide a 27 percent savings overall and it allowed the DOD operations and maintenance (O&M) funding versus capital funding. Mr. Woodall stated he would be starting work on the new contract on September 1, 2013, in order for it to be in place on September 1, 2014, when the current SUA contract expires.

Mr. Kohler advised from a State perspective, their dollars would come from capital funds.

Motion: Accept the proposed FY15 OMO/SMO Budget document to move forward for inclusion into the State of Alaska budget cycle.

The motion was made by ASAC Jones and seconded by Colonel Moser. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

Major Leveque informed the council that he was also working with Motorola™ on not just SUA lifecycle management but also on integrating long-term evolution (LTE) into ALMR.

7. New Business.

a. ALMR Training Briefing. Mr. Joe Quickel provided a comprehensive briefing of the SOA-funded training provided to ALMR agencies in FY13 to the council.

Mr. Kohler advised the council the training was open to Federal and local agencies if space was available in the classes, and it most always was.

Major Leveque stated the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was putting together a tabletop exercise for the Fairbanks region in preparation for the anniversary of the 1964 earthquake. He advised they would also be looking at updating the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) with information regarding FirstNet.

Mr. Woodall asked if there were any plans to update the Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICPs), as well, and Major Leveque stated not that he knew of.

b. Motorola™ LMR/LTE convergence briefing. Mr. Smith advised he had attended a briefing this morning, which assured users that public safety was not throwing away LMR systems. It's what we have now and they are only adding another layer of interoperability with LTE. One of the short-term benefits is that LTE will join into the current framework.

Mr. Kohler stated the convergence has already started in certain key areas and now we have the foundation to refresh the lifecycle management process for ALMR as it evolves and FirstNet evolves. He stated the council should consider what is needed for current sustainment and future enhancement of the System.

Mr. Woodall stated the council also had a strong argument to utilize the ALMR System under the current 7.13 software platform from a Beta perspective because the infrastructure is already in place.

c. EC member departure. ASAC Jones advised the council he was nearing the end of his term as the area ASAC and had received orders to move in September to a new position. He stated he would work diligently to get a quality replacement for his position.

d. SOA budget cycle. Commissioner Masters asked if there were any cycles that the department commissioners needed to monitor and Mr. Kohler stated there were:

- ETS operating budget
- Separate CIP request for the SUA II

- CIP for the Yukon-Kuskokwim (YK) Delta expansion which needs the backhaul before ALMR could consider advancing to that area. The project would run \$4.5 - \$5M, but there needs to be one of the SOA departments to advance it.

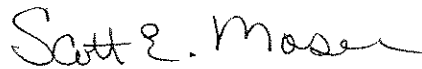
8. Next Meeting. Colonel Moser briefed the next meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2013, 1:30 p.m. at the Department of Public Safety Training/Conference Room, 5700 E Tudor Road.

9. Adjourn Meeting. Colonel Moser asked if there were any other items for discussion. Hearing none, he proposed a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Adjourn the August monthly Executive Council meeting.

The motion was made by Colonel Moser and seconded by ASAC Jones. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.



SCOTT E. MOSER, Colonel, ALCOM/J6
Department of Defense Alaska Co-Chair
ALMR Executive Council

Distribution:

ALCOM/J60, Colonel Scott Moser
SOA DPS, Commissioner Joseph Masters
AML, Chief Jeff Tucker
MOA, Lt Ken Spadafora
SOA ETS, Mr. Jim Bates
SOA DPS, Major Matt Leveque
OMO, Mr. Del Smith
ALCOM/J64, Mr. Timothy Woodall
SOA ETS, Mr. Jim Kohler
MOA, Mr. Trygve Erickson
SOA ETS, Mr. Max McGrath