



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



MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council

August 21, 2014

FROM: DOD Executive Co-Chair

SUBJECT: July 17, 2014, ALMR Executive Council Meeting Minutes

TO: See Distribution

Executive Council Members Present:

Deputy Commissioner Terry Vrabec

State of Alaska (SOA) - Department of Public Safety (via teleconference)

ASAC Kevin Donovan

Alaska Federal Executive Association (AFEA) - Federal Bureau of Investigation

Chief Jeff Tucker

Alaska Municipal League (AML) - North Star Volunteer Fire Department (via teleconference)

Lt Ken Spadafora

Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) - Anchorage Police Department

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests Present:

Major Matt Leveque

User Council Chair

Mr. Del Smith

Operations Manager, ALMR

Mr. Tim Woodall

DOD ALMR Program Manager

Mr. Jim Bates

Director, Enterprise Technology Services

LTC Glenn Mellor

Alaskan Command (ALCOM) Deputy J6

Mr. Max McGrath

Enterprise Technology Services

Mr. Tim Woodall

DOD ALMR Program Manager

Mr. Trygve Erickson

Municipality of Anchorage

Mr. Bruce Richter

OEC Regional Coordinator

Ms. Marijo Brantner

Enterprise Technology Services

Ms. Sherry Shafer

Operations Management Office (via teleconference)

1. **Call to Order.** Deputy Commissioner Terry Vrabec, State of Alaska (SOA) Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

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

3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.** Deputy Commissioner Terry Vrabec asked the Executive Council (EC) members if they had reviewed the April meeting minutes. Hearing no changes, Deputy Commissioner Terry Vrabec requested a motion for their approval.

Motion: Approve April 17, 2014, Executive Council meeting minutes, as written.

The motion to accept the minutes was made by Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) Kevin Donovan and seconded by LTC Glenn Mellor (on behalf of Colonel Harold Hoang). There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

4. **Old Business.**

a. System Upgrade Assistance (SUA) II. This item is **on hold** pending future funding actions. Mr. Max McGrath stated he thought this would be addressed under "New Business" during the Support Memorandum of Agreement discussion. He asked if there were any objections to doing that and Deputy Commissioner Vrabec agreed to move the discussion there.

b. Transportable Communications System Memorandum of Agreement (MoA). LTC Mellor stated there was no change in the status of this item.

c. Infrastructure Operation and Maintenance Services (IOMS) Contract. Mr. Del Smith stated the User Council had reviewed the old contract and had approved a motion at their June meeting to approve the System Management Office (SMO) draft statement of work, as further modified during, and after, the meeting discussion to be incorporated into the new IOMS contract.

5. **User Council Update.**

Major Matt Leveque presented the draft FY16 Operations Management (OMO)/System Management Office (SMO) Budget to the Executive Council. He advised the User Council had voted to approve it at their July 2 meeting and asked Deputy Commissioner Vrabec if he wanted Mr. Smith to walk them through it. Deputy Commissioner Vrabec stated he had no questions; the other Executive Council members stated they had none either.

Major Leveque pointed out that although there was a cost listed for the next proposed annual incremental SUA II cost, it was not included in the budget total. Mr. Smith agreed that it would need to be addressed as a separate funding item and was not included in the FY16 OMO/SMO Budget.

Major Leveque also advised the cost for the annual User Council Training Conference was listed but not included; he stated it had been four or five years since one had been held and it would be valuable to have one with all the issues coming up this year. Major Leveque reminded the Executive Council of the valuable investments that had been made in ALMR, and upcoming FirstNet discussions. He emphasized the importance of the User Council being able to attend an annual conference where they could have valuable discussions on the issues affecting the System or the users.

Likewise, Major Leveque pointed out the OMO is expected to stay current and involved in professional organizations, but has not been funded to do so in many years. He stated the events noted in the budget should be funded. When asked, Mr. Smith stated he had been paying his own way to attend them for several years.

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec briefed the other council members and the support staff that as they go into the next session, they have to have the support of the departments from DOA, DPS and DOT for this budget. He stated during the hearings, they may be asked to testify.

Mr. Jim Bates stated that as the Executive Council was aware, the Legislature is used to them whining for money and they would continue to fight for the money for this budget.

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec asked if there was anything else required for this discussion item and Mr. Smith stated normally, they would ask for a motion of approval.

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec stated he could do that.

Motion: Approve the Fiscal Year 16 (FY16) Operations Management (OMO)/System Management Office (SMO) Budget, as proposed and presented to the Executive Council.

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec proposed the motion and it was seconded by LTC Mellor (on behalf of Colonel Hoang). There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

6. Operations Management Office.

a. **Subscriber Audit Inventory Status.** Mr. Del Smith briefed the council that 118 of the 119 agencies on the System had completed and returned their inventory confirmation forms. He advised the only organization who had not was the US Army-Alaska (USARAK) with Fort Wainwright and Fort Greely only have a couple units left to respond.

Mr. Smith stated the real issue was Fort Richardson who still had no point of contact assigned to do the inventory. He briefed that the OMO had been told the Air Force Communications System was responsible for doing it, but he explained there were currently no assigned Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) representatives on the User Council or assigned points of contact with the SMO as ALMR contacts to approach.

LTC Mellor stated he could contact Colonel Roth at USARAK to try to get some compliance.

Mr. Smith reminded everyone the OMO would begin the audit process again in January 2015.

b. Fiscal Year 15 (FY15) Membership Agreements. Mr. Smith briefed the council there were four agencies who had not signed their FY15 Membership Agreements, which were due to be completed no later than July 1, the beginning of the new period.

He stated that the first was Chitina Volunteer Fire Department. The previous chief had ignored all calls and emails, but Mr. Daniel Boone Jr. claimed he was the new chief. The OMO had recently sent him the agreement to sign.

The next agency was USARAK. Mr. Smith pointed out that last year Colonel Bolin from US Army-Pacific had signed the agreement, but the OMO was directed not to directly contact that office. He stated the OMO had requested an updated point of contact from the User Council representative, but never received anything from that individual.

Mr. Smith stated the next agency was 673rd Air Base Wing (JBER), who as previously briefed, has no points of contact with which to send the agreement to, and the last was the 354th Fighter Wing (Eielson Air Force Base) who signed the agreement, but it has not come back from ALCOM yet.

LTC Mellor asked Mr. Smith to send him the list of agencies and he would see what he could do.

c. Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Points of Contact. Mr. Smith stated this issue was already covered during the previous discussions.

d. Funny River fire feedback. Mr. Smith briefed the council that after the fire he had received a copy of an email that had been distributed among the Kenai Peninsula Borough fire departments stating the System didn't work; one member of the State Legislature, who after he heard about "issues" with it wanted to defund ALMR.

Mr. Smith stated the OMO did some audits on the System and found only one site was seriously impacted; it was the Pipeline site (three-channel site) and it had over 700 bushes. From the available data, Mr. Smith advised the council that the System Manager agreed the agencies utilizing the site during the event needed to be there. He stated Mr. Joe Quickel, the training coordinator, was reaching out to the Kenai Peninsula Borough emergency manager to discuss the event and see if it was a training issue among the agencies.

Mr. Smith advised the Executive Council during the User Council meeting, Ms. Bev Fronterhouse confirmed the Bureau of Land Management had both a communications leader (COML) and a communications technician (COMT) in place and were putting out daily communications plans for the firefighting agencies. Aside from this, these agencies were utilizing conventional resources and not ALMR.

ASAC Donovan asked if the OMO has a good picture of what the issues were or did the Executive Council need to meet with the group. He also asked if this site was one that really needed to be upgraded.

Mr. Smith stated the site still had 107 busies during the previous week and it needed to be a four-channel site at a minimum. He also stated Mr. Quickel would be helping the area to develop a plan on how to deal with these types of emergencies with multiple agencies responding.

Major Leveque advised that no after action review (AAR) had been conducted yet by the Borough but they were talking about doing one in the October timeframe.

Chief Jeff Tucker briefed he was the new Fire Chief for Kenai and he had been in contact with Mr. Smith. He stated the Kenai Peninsula still has a lack of knowledge how the System is supposed to work and the each agency is still working on their own fleet map. Chief Tucker pointed out the agencies did not use the Incident Command Zones and for many of the agencies involved this was their first large operation with multi-agency response. He stated he thought when Mr. Quickel came down to do the training, it would be very effective.

Mr. Smith advised he and Mr. Casey Borg, the System Manager, would be accompanying Mr. Quickel and meet with the local folks. He stated that neither he nor Mr. Borg had heard anything from any of the agencies during the incident when all they have to do is pick up the phone and call the Help Desk.

Mr. Bates stated he agreed that from an operation and training standpoint, the OMO was headed in the right direction. He stated he had put together a chart and it came down to the isolated tower being the standout issue.

Lt Ken Spadafora stated the Municipality of Anchorage went through some similar issues until they improved coverage, but he advised they still have a few stragglers out there that do not fully understand their system and how it works.

Chief Tucker briefed that there is expertise available to help the local groups once they get together and assist them in preparing for the next incident; there are opportunities to learn from this.

Major Leveque stated another issue was it felt like there wasn't anyone in charge of the evacuation.

Chief Tucker advised the City of Kenai was not involved but Major Leveque made a fair assessment; it was not coordinated well.

Mr. Bates asked if there was the capability to dynamically reassign agencies to other sites.

Mr. Smith stated Mr. Borg could have implemented minimize traffic conditions but all the agencies were logically authorized to be using the site at the time.

LTC Mellor stated the low hanging fruit seemed to be the training issue more so than the site capacity and asked if one or the other could be dealt with immediately.

Major Leveque stated minimize has never been used or even exercised, no ICS205 forms were completed for the fire to his knowledge either. He advised there are a host of things that will need to be sorted out in the end.

Lt Spadafora suggested that perhaps agencies should be having meetings once or twice a year to discuss incidents and any issues.

Mr. Bruce Richter stated this was a great point and that facilitators could be brought in to help steer the meetings but agency buy in would need to be gained.

Major Leveque stated he was curious as to who would be the person on the Kenai Peninsula to talk to and Chief Tucker responded Mr. Scott Walden was the best point of contact. He stated he and Lt Spadafora would get together and figure out what they needed to do to make these meetings a reality with the agencies.

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec stated he thought this was a good idea and the group could use the Crime Lab at any time to meet.

e. June System metrics. Mr. Smith stated voice calls had remained pretty flat from May.

Major Leveque asked what the data allocations represented and Mr. Smith advised him they were for System data and control channel data.

f. System Change Requests. Mr. Smith advised the council there were 11 documents that required some signatures. He went over each one and stated he would attend to this issue after the close of the meeting to preclude interrupting it.

Mr. McGrath stated the ones for the suggested new sites were just the beginning paperwork and there was quite a bit of work to be done such as frequency coordination, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approval, hardware procurement, etc.

Major Leveque asked if these were the sorts of things that could be done over the winter to keep the process in motion and Mr. McGrath stated they were.

7. New Business.

a. ALMR Support Memorandum of Agreement (MoA). Mr. Tim Woodall stated the council was not being asked to sign the cover letter at this time. He advised the material owners should take the MoA and staff it through their respective organizations to get approval to send it forward to the senior leadership who would be asked to sign it. Mr.

Woodall briefed if the organizations determined the MoA was not supportable, then the Executive Council would have to look at another approach.

Major Leveque advised he had briefed it last week to his Commissioner and that they know it needs to happen.

ASAC Donovan stated he appreciated Mr. Woodall's effort but asked why the Executive Council was doing this.

Mr. Woodall explained that there were two reasons. The first was the FCC waiver which allowed the DOD and SOA to share spectrum was only good for a ten-year period and it is time to go back for a renewal to the waiver. He advised the second reason is that the infrastructure owners need to be committed to maintaining the System and that visibility needs to be at the senior level in these fiscally lean times.

Mr. Bates stated the Executive Councils needs to show the FCC they are committed so the System can continue.

Mr. Bates advised a top down approach with this action makes it easier to get necessary funding when senior leadership provides their support.

Lt Spadafora stated from the Municipalities' perspective they wanted to keep up. He believed there was unified support on their side and they would commit.

ASAC Donovan asked if it needed to be made simpler; he had a question about the language.

Mr. Woodall advised it was not intended for the general membership but the target audience was the material owners. The language regarding end of life and life cycle management needed to be understood at the senior levels and their staff should be providing the necessary information to get them to understand.

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec stated from the State level that is why they have many behind the scene meetings, because they ask the same questions.

Mr. Bates briefed with executive level sponsorship you have no confusion about the importance and support. Once or twice before it looked like the System would be torn apart.

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none he requested a motion to move the draft cover letter and MOA forward to be staffed.

Motion: The Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) Executive Council voting members concur that a member agency and senior level validation of the requirement to continue the ALMR shared system cooperative approach to include sharing of radio frequency spectrum resources, replace end-of-life equipment, develop and execute a lifecycle management approach that sustains the Information System

accreditation and certification and system software and hardware at validated and required operational levels, be accomplished through coordination and approval of the proposed memorandum of agreement to be signed at the senior executive level of the represented material owner/member agencies.

The motion to accept the minutes was made by LTC Glenn Mellor (on behalf of Colonel Harold Hoang) and seconded by ASAC Kevin Donovan. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

b. Executive Council presiding co-chair. Mr. Smith reminded the members that historically the DOD Co-Chair had been the primary; with the recent change of majority infrastructure/material ownership, the new ALCOM/J6 thought the State should now be the primary.

LTC Mellor stated there was no guarantee the new colonel would be in the position over a year and there was a steep learning curve for ALMR.

Mr. Smith advised in the absence of the State Co-Chair at any meeting, one of the other Co-Chairs could run the meeting.

Mr. Woodall stated the council could change it annually or at any time by a motion and vote. He stressed although there is some administrative burden, the SOA has a higher level of interest and risk looking at their level of material ownership.

Motion: Where-as the State of Alaska is the largest material owner of Infrastructure and represents the largest number of member agencies operating on the ALMR System, control and administration of the Executive Council meetings would best be administered by the State of Alaska Executive Council Co-Chair. As such, the Co-Chairs on the Executive Council vest that interest in the State of Alaska Co-Chair beginning Aug 1, 2014, and going forward until changed by an approved motion of the Executive Council.

The motion to accept the minutes was made by Deputy Commissioner Vrabec and seconded by LTC Glenn Mellor (on behalf of Colonel Harold Hoang). There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

c. Motorola™ briefing. Mr. Smith advised the members Motorola™ would be addressing them at the August meeting regarding upcoming end-of-life issues.

8. Next Meeting. Deputy Commissioner Vrabec briefed the next meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2014, 1:30 p.m. at 5900 E Tudor Road in the Enterprise Technology Services Conference Room.

9. Adjourn Meeting. Deputy Commissioner Vrabec asked if there were any other items for discussion. Hearing none, he provided the motion to adjourn.

Motion: Adjourn the July monthly Executive Council meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by ASAC Donovan and seconded by LTC Mellor (on behalf of Colonel Hoang). There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.



TERRY VRABEC, Deputy Commissioner DPS
State of Alaska Co-Chair
ALMR Executive Council

Distribution:

SOA DPS, Deputy Commissioner Terry Vrabec
ALCOM/J60, Colonel Harold Hoang
FBI, ASAC Kevin Donovan
AML, Chief Jeff Tucker
MOA, Lt Ken Spadafora
SOA ETS, Mr. Jim Bates
ALCOM/J66, LTC Glenn Mellor
SOA DPS, Major Matt Leveque
OMO, Mr. Del Smith
ALCOM/J64, Mr. Timothy Woodall
SOA ETS, Mr. Max McGrath
MOA, Mr. Trygve Erickson
MOA, Mr. Jason Beach