



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



MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council

October 16, 2014

FROM: SOA Executive Co-Chair

SUBJECT: September 18, 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)
Colonel Harold Hoang	Department of Defense (DOD) – Alaskan Command (ALCOM)/J6
ASAC Kevin Donovan	Alaska Federal Executive Association (AFEA) - Federal Bureau of Investigation
Chief Jeff Tucker	Alaska Municipal League – Kenai Fire Department (via teleconference)

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests Present:

Mr. Del Smith	Operations Manager, ALMR
Mr. Jim Bates	Director, Enterprise Technology Services (via teleconference)
Mr. Scott Stormo	Enterprise Technology Services
Mr. Tim Woodall	DOD ALMR Program Manager
Mr. Bruce Richter	Office of Emergency Services, Region X Coordinator
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 1:34 p.m.

2. Opening Statements and Other Announcements. Deputy Commissioner Vrabec announced Major Matt Leveque had been called into a meeting with his commanders and that Mr. Del Smith would brief the User Council portion of the meeting.

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

Motion: Approve August 21, 2014, Executive Council meeting minutes, as written.

The motion to accept the minutes was made by Colonel Harold Hoang and seconded by Deputy Commissioner Vrabec. 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. Tim Woodall updated the council and advised that they were still working on this issue and the coverage was due to expire on September 30, 2014. He stated there was no confirmation from Motorola™ at this time, but he believed they would extend the coverage through the end of the calendar year, giving the Department of Defense (DOD) time to obtain funding under the new Federal fiscal year.

b. Transportable Communications System Memorandum of Agreement (MoA). Mr. Woodall explained that, as previously briefed, Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) was considering doing away with the northern system. He advised the Air Force and the Army would be offered the opportunity to take the system first but if they didn't want it, it would go to the Defense Reutilization Management Office (DRMO) much the same as had occurred during the divestiture of the radio frequency (RF) equipment by US Army-Alaska (USARAK) a few years ago. Mr. Woodall stated at the time, the State could request it. He also added, he had a rough order of magnitude (ROM) on the costs to sustain the system and would pass it on to Major Leveque.

This item remains **ON HOLD**.

5. User Council Update.

a. Vacancies. Del advised there was no change in the vacancies on the User Council and the issue would remain on the agenda as an "open" item until resolution, in order to keep it in front of the Executive Council.

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec asked how the council could poke the organizations on this issue and he could handle the vacancy for the Department of Public Safety alternate. He

stated, with regard to the other positions, it seemed there had been no progress on this for some time.

Mr. Smith briefed that USARAK did have someone in mind but they were waiting on him to arrive on station. He stated the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson positions had been vacant for some time and seemed to be no one available to fill them.

Mr. Woodall advised both the previous primary and alternate members had been deployed and the organization hadn't found anyone qualified to fill the positions.

Chief Jeff Tucker stated there were no agencies active on ALMR in the southeast and it was difficult to get any interest from that area to fill the alternate position.

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec stated he intended to poke each of the areas before the next meeting.

b. Agency removal from ALMR. Mr. Smith explained the Chitina Volunteer Fire Department had failed to execute their FY15 Membership Agreement. He stated he had started by contacting the known chief, Mr. Dean Lenard, and was told he was no longer the chief; he then contacted Mr. Daniel Boone Jr., who was the new chief.

Mr. Smith stated he had contacted Mr. Boone by both email and by phone on several occasions, but still received no completed agreement. He had also arranged for Mr. Joe Quickel, ALMR Training Coordinator, to go to Chitina and train Mr. Boone but has received no response from Chief Boone to the offer/.

Mr. Smith briefed the prepared motion was presented to the User Council at their September 3 meeting for approval to move forward to the Executive Council for approval; therefore, he was offering it this time on behalf of Major Leveque, User Council Chair.

Motion: Approve the removal of the Chitina Volunteer Fire Department as a member agency in the Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) Communications System for non-compliance with ALMR Cooperative Agreement, Article 11, paragraph 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."

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec stated the thought Mr. Smith had gone well beyond what he should have and it was time to move forward. He offered the motion as written and it was seconded by Colonel Hoang.

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec asked if there was any additional discussion.

Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) Kevin Donovan advised he had initially had concerns with the letter, but it gives the agency an additional 30 days to comply. He stated that, and the effort already put forth, were sufficient and he had no problems supporting the motion.

There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

6. Operations Management Office.

a. SOA Legislature-mandated subscriber inventory audit. Mr. Del Smith briefed the council that US Army Alaska was still the only agency who had not completed their inventories. He stated the Army point of contact, Mr. Rich Garrett had advised they were going to inhibit the radios for the remaining organization at Fort Greely until they complied and they were preparing a directive memo for the organizations at Fort Wainwright to comply, but they were deferring to the 673rd Communications Squadron for the Fort Richardson (FRA) radios.

Mr. Woodall voiced concerns that if the Army reported on the FRA radios, it would be a duplicate report because the Communications Squadron was responsible for them since the joint merger.

Colonel Hoang stated he would have LTC Glenn Mellor work with the Communications Squadron commander and requested Mr. Smith send him what he had.

b. Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) Membership Agreements. Mr. Smith briefed the council the USARAK agreement had been received and finalized and the only outstanding agreement was Chitina VFD as briefed under the User Council update portion.

c. August System metrics. Mr. Smith advised the council members the System was average 1.2M calls per month over the last 12 months. He also stated those sites identified for upgrades continued to contribute to the higher-than-normal busy rates.

7. New Business.

Mr. Jim Bates advised the council he had a call with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) today about the report they were putting together for the White House. He stated they were looking into security and communications in the Arctic region, particularly communications regarding the 46 communities there. Mr. Bates briefed they were also looking for recommendations for Federal/private partnerships for this region. He stated from the State's perspective it was not cost effective to try to extend the System to the area but the area was becoming a major focus of development and tourism, as there had been a number of cruise ships going there lately.

Colonel Hoang stated Lockheed Martin and the US Coast Guard (USCG) had recently been part of the test group for communications in that area and the USCG was also doing a site visit to Fort Greely and Eielson Air Force Base tomorrow. It was in regards to the research and development for the right location for a high frequency (HF) system.

Mr. Woodall briefed he believed USNORTHCOM has recently completed a study for the region, as well.

Mr. Smith advised the council about three years ago Barrow was engaged in replacing their aging radio system.

Jim stated they had just hired a project manager this summer.

Chief Tucker stated both he and Major Leveque had talked to the NTIA already and shared information on ALMR with them. He advised he had a copy of Major Leveque's conversation he could share but had not gotten a copy of his back yet.

8. Next Meeting. Deputy Commissioner Vrabec briefed the next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 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 following motion to adjourn.

Motion: Adjoin the ^{September}~~August~~ monthly Executive Council meeting.

Corrected by SLS
10/20/2014

A motion to adjourn was made by Deputy Commissioner Vrabec and seconded by Assistant Special Agent in Charge Kevin Donovan.

There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.



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

Distribution:

ALCOM/J60, Colonel Harold Hoang
SOA DPS, Deputy Commissioner Terry Vrabec
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