



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



MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council

March 19, 2015

FROM: DOD Executive Co-Chair

SUBJECT: February 19, 2015, ALMR Executive Council Meeting Minutes

TO: See Distribution

Executive Council Members Present:

Colonel Harold Hoang

A/ASAC Steve Forrest

Lt Ken Spadafora

Department of Defense (DOD) –
Alaskan Command (ALCOM)/J6
Alaska Federal Executive Association
(AFEA) – Federal Bureau of
Investigation (via teleconference)
Municipality of Anchorage – Anchorage
Police Department

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests Present:

Mr. Jim Bates

Mr. Del Smith
Mr. Scott Stormo

Mr. Tim Woodall
Mr. Trygve Erickson

Mr. John Rockwell
Mr. Bradley Kaizer

Mr. Thomas Mayer

Mr. Bill Kaizer

Director, Enterprise Technology
Services
Operations Manager, ALMR
Enterprise Technology Services (ETS)
ALMR/SATS Manager
DOD ALMR Program Manager
Municipality of Anchorage
Communications Manager (via
teleconference)
SOA Department of Public Safety
SOA Administration Contracting Officer,
DGS General Services
(via teleconference)
SOA Administration, Division
Director, DGS General Services
(via teleconference)
Federal Non-DOD FBI User Council
Representative (via teleconference)

Ms. Sherry Shafer

Operations Management Office
(via teleconference)

1. **Call to Order.** Colonel Harold Hoang, Department of Defense (DOD) Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.
2. **Opening Statements and Other Announcements.** Colonel Hoang asked the group if there were any announcements. There were none.
3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.** Colonel Hoang asked the Executive Council (EC) members if they had reviewed the January meeting minutes and had any comments.

Hearing no comments, Colonel Hoang made the following motion for approval.

Motion: Approve the January 15, Executive Council meeting minutes, as presented.

The motion was seconded by Acting Assistant Special Agent in Charge (A/ASAC) Steve Forrest. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

4. **Old Business.**

a. System Upgrade Assistance (SUA) II and System Update Services (SUS). This item is **ON HOLD** pending future funding actions.

Mr. Tim Woodall advised the council members the SUA was being provided by the contractor through the end of the contract year (June 30) without any additional funding and he fully anticipated from the DOD perspective the funding would be available for the SUS and also anticipated the State and Municipality would fund theirs, as well. He stated the SUA requirement would be readdressed in FY2016 with the execution of a new contract.

Mr. Woodall explained the SUS are required for pre-testing security patching, information assurance and cyber protection for the System. He also advised the SUS was normally wrapped up in the SUA, which upgrades to the newest technology every two years with a cost savings of 27 percent cost savings when funded entirely through operations and maintenance (O&M) funds over the capital funding perspective every 3 to 5 years.

Lt Ken Spadafora briefed the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) was currently not 100 percent funded on the SUA money.

Mr. Trygve Erickson stated the MOA was prepared to fund their SUS portion in arrears from October 2014 through all of 2015.

Mr. Woodall stated this item could be closed because the services for the remainder of this contract year were in place.

This items is **CLOSED**.

b. Codicil to the ALMR Cooperative Agreement. Colonel Hoang advised the group that he had received final coordination from US Army-Pacific (USARPAC) and the document could be readied for signature by the Governor, the Mayor and the Alaskan Command (ALCOM) Commander.

Mr. Woodall mentioned Mr. Del Smith had suggested a group signing.

Mr. Del Smith stated he thought it was a good thing from the perspective of support in getting the three leaders together, but he wasn't in a position to call anyone up and suggest it particularly from the Governor and DOD side. He stated that Lt Spadafora, working through the city manager, could probably get the mayor to participate.

Mr. Woodall stated if the Governor was willing to do it, he thought they could get the other prime players to go along with it. He asked Mr. Scott Stormo if the DOA Commissioner was going to work that up the chain.

Mr. Stormo advised he thought it was being worked by DPS.

Mr. Smith advised both Major Matt Leveque and Deputy Commissioner Terry Vrabec were both traveling but he would send an email after the meeting to see if he had any further information.

Colonel Hoang stated the DOD was there to assist in any way they could.

Mr. Jim Bates stated at the recent Legislative session, Major Leveque did a really good job and any additional lobbying would be good as far as support for the ALMR System and changing perspectives. He reminded the group there were heavy cuts coming although their Commissioner seemed very positive in managing those.

Colonel Hoang advised this was a great opportunity to recognize the partnership and he had already briefed it to his Chief of Staff; it was a win-win for all.

Lt Spadafora reminded the group that the city election was coming up in April, so getting it signed sooner rather than later.

Colonel Hoang asked Del to send out the email after the meeting, as he discussed.

5. User Council Update.

Vacancies. Mr. Smith advised the council, since Major Leveque was traveling, he would brief on his behalf.

He reminded the council of the on-going vacancies and briefed them that the State All-Others primary had also recently left employment with the Division of Forestry.

Mr. Woodall asked what the impact of the vacancies was.

Mr. Smith stated this is an important time, in fact critical, at this point with the aforementioned budget cuts, that the council be complete. He was particularly concerned the DOD had been vacant for some time and it was important for the users of the radios to participate in the System and decisions on its future.

6. Operations Management Office.

a. Service Level Agreement (SLA). Mr. Smith advised the US Army-Alaska (USARAK) signature block was still needed and also asked if ALCOM would be staffing it to the service components.

Mr. Woodall stated Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Dean Denter would be the signatory for USARAK and confirmed ALCOM would staff the package through the DOD components for their signatures.

b. Sitka site. Mr. Smith stated the equipment, previously removed from the Rabbit Creek site, had been installed at Sitka and they were only awaiting connectivity by ETS.

c. Clear AFS site. Mr. Smith briefed the System Management Office technicians were at the site today doing the outside tower work and would be working inside next week. The plan was to complete it prior to Mr. Casey Borg's departure as System Manager on February 27.

d. January System metrics. Mr. Smith presented the metrics to the group stating they were consistent with the past year with push to talks being over a million each month. He also noted the busies were extremely low and the remaining three channels would be considered for upgrade as equipment and funds became available.

e. Pipeline Hills site. Mr. Smith noted this site was a three-channel and it was overwhelmed during the Funny River fire. He advised the equipment had arrived, as of yesterday, and should be all that is required to complete the upgrade.

f. System Change Requests (CRs). Mr. Smith stated he had several System CRs for the council's signature at the end of the meeting regarding the site installation at Clear AFS and Sitka, and also the replacement of the Quantars® site radios at R1 North, TAS and TAN with GTR8000s.

7. New Business.

ALMR Funding. Mr. Smith noted that Mr. Bates had mentioned the proposed budget previously and he wanted to comment on that. He advised that he had looked at the SOA budgets from FY2013 through 2016 and noted the funding shortfalls over the years. Mr. Smith stated that if the budget is passed, as currently proposed, it will be a little over a million dollars short of what is needed to run ALMR.

Mr. Smith briefed a technical working group had been convened yesterday to discuss the impact of the shortfall to the infrastructure operations and maintenance services (IOMS) contract line items. He also advised that the User Council is to participate in a meeting

next Wednesday to discuss what the impacts will be if those line items are not funded. He briefed he didn't think it was looking good. Mr. Smith stated it was his understanding that if it's going to be added back into the budget, it would be a legislative process. He also stated he had listened in on the committee meeting and thought Major Leveque did a great job but he was somewhat disappointed only three committee members were there. Mr. Smith noted the Chair seemed interested, but it would take some uphill pushing to add money back.

Mr. Smith advised he was also concerned regarding the funds for SATS, which have been cut too. He emphasized that SATS is critical to ALMR and if ALMR doesn't have SATS, it doesn't have wide area connectivity. With regard to the loss of funding and ALMR services, Mr. Smith stated he didn't know what people can live without but if the System is not monitored or responded to, we are going to have problems. He pointed out that ALMR is at a critical juncture after 1 July.

Mr. Bates stated the one thing the DOA Commissioner stated during the testimony was that there was another proposal put forth to look at the information technology (IT) spend statewide and possibly some of that money could be put here. He advised he had put some ideas forward to Mr. Stormo and asked if the council was open to having a discussion in a special meeting with the User Council and the Executive Council along with representatives from the Administration on how they could go forward. Mr. Bates introduced Mr. Thomas Mayer and Mr. Bradley Kiser to the council and briefed he wanted to also meet with Mr. Woodall to discuss how everyone moves forward when the contract comes up for renegotiation. He stated he had fully briefed his Commissioner so he would understand the risk and impact of going into a break/fix mode. He also thought it would be a good idea to hold a special meeting with the DOA and DPS commissioners to strategize.

Mr. Woodall stated one of the products that will come out of the technical review is a document which shows where cuts could be made, the description of the services, the criticality of those services and the risks taken with loss of the services. He also noted it is important to provide the cost summary breakdown and he had given each of them a summary of the cost for the ten-year life span of the System and who has paid what. Mr. Woodall noted that FY16 is final year of this contract and it is important for legislators to see how it's been apportioned; by giving them the information they can make informed decision and understand criticality and also how it affects cooperative partnership.

Mr. Woodall also briefed that with every new administration, new mayor or other change of leadership, ALMR finds itself in the same situation. He stated there are many documents previously written, which show the cost reasonableness of ALMR against other like systems. Mr. Woodall felt it would be advantageous for the State commissioners and base senior leadership to engage on where ALMR is going in future and how we fund it. He noted there was a lot of education needed on upcoming capital costs as well because it seems like there is always one fiscal crisis after another. Mr. Woodall pointed out that there is some system infrastructure coming to its end of life which amounts to a significant cost, and if we can't move that forward with everyone on the same page, we will have partnership issues and cyber security issues. He briefed

that by laying out the “big picture” at the executive level and giving them a strategic view of the future, it would be beneficial.

Colonel Hoang pointed out the Business Case speaks for itself to all these facts and, if the schedule permits, he will engage the leadership at the base along with the first responders on the installations. He stated, at the end of the day, all we can do is provide them the information but, from the DOD perspective, he thought it was a great proposal.

8. Next Meeting. Colonel Hoang briefed the next meeting is scheduled for March 19, at 1:30 p.m. at 5900 E Tudor Road in the Enterprise Technology Services Conference Room.

9. Adjourn Meeting. Colonel Hoang asked if there were any other items for council discussion. Hearing none, he request a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Adjourn the February monthly Executive Council meeting.

The motion to adjourn was made by A/ASAC Forrest and seconded by Colonel Hoang.

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

Harold Hoang, Colonel, USAF
ALCOM J6/Department of Defense Co-Chair
ALMR Executive Council

Distribution:

ALCOM/J6, Colonel Harold Hoang
SOA DPS, Deputy Commissioner Terry Vrabec
FBI, A/ASAC Steve Forrest
AML, Ms. Linda Murphy
MOA, Lt Ken Spadafora
SOA ETS, Mr. Jim Bates
ALCOM/J60, LTC Glenn Mellor
SOA DPS, Major Matt Leveque
SOA ETS, Mr. Scott Stormo
ALCOM/J64, Mr. Timothy Woodall
OMO, Mr. Del Smith
MOA, Mr. Trygve Erickson