



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



MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council

April 16, 2015

FROM: SOA Executive Co-Chair

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

TO: See Distribution

Executive Council Members Present:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Deputy Commissioner Terry Vrabec | State of Alaska (SOA) – Department of Public Safety (DPS) (via teleconference) |
| Colonel Harold Hoang | Department of Defense (DOD) – Alaskan Command (ALCOM)/J6 |
| Lt Ken Spadafora | Municipality of Anchorage – Anchorage Police Department |
| Ms. Linda Murphy | Alaska Municipal League (AML) |

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests Present:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Major Matt Leveque | SOA DPS and User Council Chair |
| Mr. Del Smith | Operations Manager, ALMR (via teleconference) |
| Mr. Tim Woodall | DOD ALMR Program Manager |
| Mr. Trygve Erickson | Municipality of Anchorage Communications Manager (via teleconference) |
| Mr. Dean Strid | Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) |
| Mr. Rich Leber | Technical Advisor, ALMR |
| Mr. John Rockwell | SOA Department of Public Safety |
| 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 1:31 p.m.

2. **Opening Statements and Other Announcements.** Deputy Commissioner Vrabec asked the group if there were any announcements. There were none.

3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.** Deputy Commissioner Vrabec asked the Executive Council (EC) members if they had reviewed the February meeting minutes and had any comments.

Hearing no comments, Deputy Commissioner Vrabec made the following motion for approval.

Motion: Approve the February 19 Executive Council meeting minutes, as presented.

The motion was seconded by Colonel Harold Hoang. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

4. **Old Business.**

Codicil to the ALMR Cooperative Agreement. Deputy Commissioner Vrabec stated the council had been working on this for some time and asked if there was an update on the status.

Colonel Hoang advised the group that he had the hard copy signed by the Governor in hand and that he was preparing a Talking Paper and hoped to get it signed within the next week.

Mr. Tim Woodall stated he was putting together the staffing documents for it to go to the General.

Mr. Del Smith advised the council that once the General signed the document, the Operations Management Office (OMO) would get it to the Mayor for signature.

5. **User Council Update.**

a. Budget discussions. Major Matt Leveque briefed the group he was unsure what the current proposed budget cuts would mean for the Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) Communications System. He stated he had recently spoken to Department of Administration Deputy Commissioner Boucher and there was a \$1.2M deficit in the current proposed budget documents split between the State of Alaska Telecommunications System (SATS) and ALMR.

Major Leveque also advised the group that the Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police (AACOP) had written a letter to the Governor and Legislators regarding their concerns over the funding for ALMR.

b. Vacancies. Major Leveque updated the council that the Deputy Commissioner Vrabec had received a nomination to fill the SOA All Others primary User Council (UC)

position and was in support of the candidate. Therefore, Major Leveque offered the following motion for the council's consideration.

Motion: Approve the nomination for the appointment of Mr. Nathan Skinner as the primary SOA-All Others representative to the ALMR User Council.

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec asked the council members if there was any discussion regarding the nomination and there was none.

The motion was then made by Deputy Commissioner Vrabec and seconded by Colonel Harold Hoang. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

6. Operations Management Office.

a. Service Level Agreement (SLA). Mr. Smith advised the council the agreement had been sent to ALCOM to route to the service components for signature.

b. GTR8000s. Mr. Smith stated the new GTR8000 equipment was in place at R1 North and in both of the transportable communications systems. He explained the new equipment replaced 20 Quantars® and that Mr. Scott Stormo, ETS SATS Manager, had expressed interest in obtaining them from the DOD if no other Federal agencies requested them.

Mr. Smith noted if ETS was able to obtain the Quantars®, they would be utilized to add capacity to a list of prioritized sites developed by the UC and ETS and as spares.

c. Clear AFS Site. Mr. Smith briefed the site was installed a couple weeks ago and he had participated in a teleconference with the installation commander and staff regarding ALMR. He explained the System Management Office (SMO) technicians would be going to the site to do some in-building testing, as well.

d. February System Metrics. Mr. Smith explained there was a lull in the push to talks but this was normal for this time of year and also February being a shorter month, contributes to the lower numbers.

e. International Wireless Communications Expo (IWCE)/FirstNet Discussions. Mr. Smith advised the council members he was currently attending the IWCE and during the session on FirstNet it was briefed they had added comments to their web page making it clear that FirstNet would have no mission-critical voice for some period of time. FirstNet members strongly emphasized that land mobile radio (LMR) for public safety communications would be required for a long time to come and that existing LMR systems must be maintained and updated, accordingly.

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec stated that DPS was very concerned about what was happening in the Legislature regarding funding cuts for ALMR and SATS and had testified several times on the importance of it. Deputy Commissioner Vrabec also expressed his appreciation to Major Leveque regarding his efforts toward this, as well.

7. New Business.

a. Meeting with the Governor. Major Leveque advised the group he was scheduled to meet with the Governor for approximately a half hour to discuss "all things communications related." He noted he had his presentation laid out regarding what the State needed to do with regard to FirstNet and statewide interoperability governance.

b. MatSu Borough. Mr. Woodall stated he had a concern, more than an action item, to present to the council. He advised them the spectrum agreement was up for renewal with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and that ALMR needed to show their commitment.

Mr. Woodall briefed that one thing the FCC had requested during the approval of the waiver was that the Executive Council be recognized as the State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) because there was no SIEC appointed by the Governor. He advised one of the responsibilities of the SIEC is to look at the spectrum from a usage perspective and he had discovered the MatSu Borough was adding sites that were not associated with ALMR.

Mr. Woodall stated his concern in this area was that MatSu was obtaining spectrum within the spectrum given to ALMR and the National Coordinator had not worked with ALMR on this, which would make it difficult for ALMR to add channels in the future. He advised if there was an SIEC appointed by the Governor, they would have been allowed to look at the requested spectrum by MatSu and weigh in.

Mr. Dean Strid noted that the FCC waiver granted SOA the priority but the National Coordinator was not respecting that authority. He emphasized that there was an urgent need to ensure the spectrum assignments were made according to the waiver.

Major Leveque advised that he was preparing a briefing for the Governor regarding this issue and if the Governor signed off on it, it would establish an SIEC.

Mr. Woodall stated it was critical that ALMR do something because this was an encroachment on the band of spectrum given to ALMR and no one else was supposed to use it. He advised it would not be a bad idea if the Executive Council reached out to the MatSu Borough and communicated their concerns and also asked MatSu what their intentions were because the system they were building was not interoperable like ALMR.

Colonel Hoang stated that would probably be a conversation with Mr. George Hays and Mr. Woodall advised it could also be the borough manager, as well.

Mr. Strid briefed it appeared they were interested in staying within the VHF band but they wanted to build their own system rather than expand ALMR into the MatSu Valley.

Mr. Woodall briefed they could do something similar to what the Municipality of Anchorage had done and still share controllers with ALMR. This would mean they still owned and operated their system just like with AWARN.

Colonel Hoang stated it was worth a discussion to see how far down that path MatSu had already gone.

Mr. Trygve pointed out that MatSu had reached out to them. He stated Mr. Dennis Brodigan, Borough Manager, realized that ALMR is where they need to be but they are uncertain until they receive clarity on the cost of being on ALMR.

Mr. Smith advised that every conversation he had ever heard with the MatSu Borough staff was that there was no assurance on the cost and also the budgets being put forth from Juneau just amplified their concerns. Mr. Smith briefed that the speaker from Wyoming at IWCE emphasized one of the biggest bars to interoperability is charging agencies to be on a system. Wyoming and a couple of other statewide systems similar to ALMR don't charge and they don't have these issues.

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec stated that after Major Leveque's meeting with the Governor, the council should set up a meeting with MatSu. He noted this should also be readdressed at the next meeting.

c. User Council Vacancies. Colonel Hoang advised the members he was engaged with the 673rd Communications Squadron (673CS) regarding filling the UC vacancies for Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) and the Communications Squadron was committed to filling one of the positions. Colonel Hoang briefed he was also enlisting the Mission Support Group (MSG) and the Civil Engineers (CE) commanders to get their assistance in filling the other position from a first responder position. He stated hopefully they would be filled in the near future.

Mr. Woodall noted the primary position would be a public safety responder and Mr. Smith agreed the technical person should be the alternate.

8. Next Meeting. Deputy Commissioner Vrabec briefed the next meeting is scheduled for April 16, at 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 council discussion.

Hearing no comments, Deputy Commissioner Vrabec made the following motion for approval.

Motion: Adjourn the March monthly Executive Council meeting.

The motion was seconded by Colonel Hoang. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.



Terry Vrabec, Deputy Commissioner DPS
State of Alaska Co-Chair
ALMR Executive Council

Distribution:

SOA DPS, Deputy Commissioner Terry Vrabec
ALCOM/J6, Colonel Harold Hoang
FBI, A/ASAC Steve Forrest
MOA, Lt Ken Spadafora
AML, Ms. Linda Murphy
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