



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



MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council

August 20, 2015

FROM: SOA Executive Co-Chair

SUBJECT: July 16, 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
ASAC David Condo	Alaska Federal Executive Association – Federal Bureau of Investigation
Lt Ken Spadafora	Municipality of Anchorage – Anchorage Police Department

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests Present:

Mr. Del Smith	Operations Manager, ALMR
Mr. Tim Woodall	DOD ALMR Program Manager
Mr. Jim Bates	Director, Enterprise Technology Services (ETS)
Mr. Bruce Richter	OEC Region X District Office
Mr. Steve Noel	FirstNet Regional 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 1:35 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 April meeting minutes and had any comments.

Hearing no comments, Deputy Commissioner Vrabec requested a motion for their approval.

Motion: Approve the April 16 Executive Council meeting minutes, as presented.

The motion was made by Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) David Condo and seconded by Colonel Harold Hoang. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

4. Old Business.

a. Service Level Agreement (SLA). Deputy Commissioner Vrabec asked Del if he had an update on this item and Del deferred to Mr. Tim Woodall.

Mr. Woodall advised there had been recent changes to the commanders at both the bases and with the 59th Signal Battalion. He explained the out-going commanders had deferred the signing of the agreement to the incoming commanders, who were now in place, so the agreement was in the process of being staffed. Mr. Woodall stated the same applied to their FY16 membership agreements.

Colonel Hoang added the new commanders were now in place, so the agreement was in the process of being staffed.

Mr. Woodall stated he did not anticipate any requested changes to the agreement.

b. Excess Quantars® from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Mr. Tim Woodall advised there was no change in the status of this item at this point. He reiterated the Department of Defense (DOD) could put them through the Defense Reutilization Management Office (DRMO) or may hold on to them as spares. He stated another approach would be to loan them out to the State but he was unsure if the services would be inclined to do that. Mr. Woodall noted he would coordinate closely with the Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) Division, if they decided to utilize the DRMO process. He also stated the same would apply to the Transportable Area North (TAN) if the decision was made to divest it by US Northern Command (NORTHCOM).

Mr. Woodall recommended this item be closed and Deputy Commissioner Vrabec concurred. This item is now **CLOSED**.

c. Transportable Area South (TAS) deployment and VIP day. Deputy Commissioner Vrabec inquired how the VIP day went. Mr. Woodall stated several individuals from ETS came out and a few others from the Federal agencies.

Colonel Hoang advised that General Handy and his Civilian Advisory Board (CAB), which is a group of local business leaders and State authorities had also been briefed on the Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA) mission that the transportables support. He stated there were also attendees from The Adjutant General's (TAG) office and overall, it was well received.

d. MotoBridge® Gateway future funding. Mr. Woodall noted the status of this item remains the same. He stated funding within DOD and the State is not likely in the next couple fiscal years. Mr. Woodall advised he had requested the User Council to look at the long-term use of the MotoBridge® and whether it should continue.

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec asked Mr. Del Smith if he had any update from the User Council.

Mr. Smith advised there was not much discussion regarding any updates to the MotoBridge® but the Army representative strongly urged to keep it because they utilize it on the ranges and at their sites.

Mr. Woodall stated the cost of annual maintenance was approximately \$100K.

5. User Council Update.

Deputy Chief Brad Johnson was out of town and unavailable to attend the meeting and had previously requested Mr. Smith to provide the User Council updates.

Mr. Smith advised the council that Major Matt Leveque had retired as of the first of the month and Deputy Chief Johnson had assumed the duties of the Chair effective the June 3 User Council meeting. He stated an election had been conducted to fill the vacant Vice Chair position and Mr. Ocie Adams, SOA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, had been elected.

Mr. Smith reminded the council the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson primary and alternate positions had been filled and they had been approved via electronic vote of the Executive Council in June.

Mr. Smith advised the council the SOA Department of Public Safety (DPS) primary and alternate, Southeast-Municipalities alternate and the US Army-Alaska (USARAK) alternate representative positions were all vacant. He stated Lt Steven Adams from the Alaska State Troopers (AST) had sat in at the last User Council meeting but he was unsure if he would be the new representative.

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec stated he would like to get the AST positions filled from his end but they were in a state of flux at the moment.

6. Operations Management Office.

a. Service Level Agreement (SLA). Mr. Smith stated that had already been covered by Mr. Woodall and Colonel Hoang.

b. Infrastructure, Operations and Maintenance Services (IOMS) Contract. Mr. Smith briefed that the \$1M in reductions in the State's FY16 budget for ALMR was taken from the tech services, board repair and Motorola™ reports functions. He also advised the council a couple of pieces of equipment had already been replaced using spares and ETS had a process in place for limited funding of board repairs.

Mr. Smith explained Mr. Travis Conant, the System Manager, was working closely with Mr. Scott Stormo, ETS, on any repair issues with the goal of accomplishing all maintenance in a more cost effective manner. Therefore, the System Management Office (SMO) had also performed the annual periodic maintenance inspection at the Skagway site, when they went there to replace a failed switch in early July.

c. Birch Hill. Mr. Smith stated it was his understanding the money had been approved by the Army to replace the failed battery plant at the master site. He advised the council that Doyon had requested to do some repairs recently and requested to take the power down at the site but it was delayed. Mr. Smith briefed until the battery plant was replaced, ALMR was not comfortable relying solely on the generator since without the battery backup in place a failure of the generator during the outage would jeopardize the entire Zone 2.

d. Annual Inventory. Mr. Smith advised the council the annual subscriber inventory was completed and all forms were returned.

e. Annual Membership Renewals. Mr. Smith stated Mr. Woodall had already touched on the DOD membership agreements and the only other outstanding one belonged to Manley Hot Springs Volunteer Fire Department. He explained although they had never had radios on the System, the fire chief had been convinced to remain on ALMR in case they ever came into the coverage area footprint to assist other first responders.

f. FY17 OMO/SMO Budget. Mr. Smith advised the council members the FY17 OMO/SMO Budget document had been approved by the User Council and it would be provided to them via email after this meeting for them to review. He noted that although both the Operations Management Office (OMO) and SMO contracts would expire at the end of this State fiscal year (June 16, 2016), the budget was prepared to reflect the current requirements to fully maintain the ALMR System by both offices and at the full service levels.

Mr. Smith stated he did not believe any reductions should be reflected in any long-term funding outlooks. He also advised that the recertification of Defense Information Assurance Certification and Accreditation Process (DIACAP) would be required before the end of 2016 putting it into this budget cycle; therefore, it was included in the document.

Mr. Smith also discussed the System Upgrade Assistance (SUA) and System Update Services (SUS) requirements that were included and would need to be addressed. He

reminded the council the SUS was required to keep the DIACAP certification current because it covered all the necessary security patches and updates to the System software.

Mr. Smith stated the OMO had covered all the items that they thought needed to be addressed and the decision makers would have to give consideration to. Other items including the Gold Elite console end of life and the next System upgrade were among them, as well. He requested the council members come prepared to vote on its approval at their August meeting.

Mr. Woodall requested the FY17 OMO/SMO Budget be looked at from a five-year perspective, because of all the upcoming equipment end of life

g. ALMR Sustainment. Mr Smith briefed the council members he had begun working with Deputy Chief Johnson in the past week to develop a mission statement for a working group, yet to be put together, to address ALMR sustainment in the facing of continued underfunding. He stated once the working group was selected, their task would be to prepare arguments why the System needs to stay current and that information would be briefed at the State and Federal levels at some point in the future. Mr. Smith noted he would be meeting with Deputy Chief Johnson the following Monday to begin discussions.

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec stated he may need Mr. Smith to visit some of the behind-door meetings to state this very case.

h. March System Metrics. Mr. Smith advised the System voice calls were up approximately 100K with around 900 busies for the previous month. He attributed most of the increase to the Card Street and Sockeye wildfires. Mr. Smith noted the Pipeline site had even experienced busies during these events which were the first since it had the channel capacity upgraded last year after the Funny River fire.

Mr. Smith briefed the OMO had received information that one of the State legislators had made disparaging remarks regarding paying for a system that didn't work after the fires. He explained that he and the System Manager had reached out to the agencies involved in the response to the fires and were told they had no issues with the System performance. The actual firefighting agencies utilized ALMR prior to transitioning to their cached conventional radios, which is standard procedure. Mr. Smith stated he prepared an audit report regarding the System performance during the fires and included emails from all the agencies points of contact on how the System performed; the report was passed to Department of Administration (DOA) Deputy Commissioner Boucher.

Mr. Smith stated at one point the fire was close to the Willow site, but the OMO and SMO maintained contact with the SOA Division of Forestry to monitor it until it changed direction.

Mr. Smith advised the council he had copies of the Genesis® reports on system usage if they were interested in seeing them, and that the reports had been included in the audit addressing the legislator's concerns. Mr. Jim Bates stated he had seen the original email

to the DOA Commissioner and it was the usual, unsubstantiated rhetoric about the System.

Mr. Smith briefed one other issue he had heard about was from the MatSu Borough regarding getting access to the Cottonwood site. He advised no one was blocked from the site and they needed to check their radio to ensure they were appropriately programmed. Mr. Smith noted that coverage maps were made available to Mr. Eric Wyatt per his request. He also stated the ALMR training coordinator, Mr. Joe Quickel, was currently working with the MatSu Borough and had been told that the Troopers could knock MatSu off the System if they needed the site. Mr. Smith stated emphatically this was not true.

Mr. Bates advised the council he had attended a meeting in the valley and had read the audit report that Mr. Smith had prepared to the attending IT/CIO members.

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec stated he didn't hear anything from the Governor's office or their Legislators office and overall he was impressed with all the groups who had responded.

Mr. Smith noted the email he had received from Mr. Trygve Erickson, Municipality of Anchorage, was particularly interesting because it pointed out the huge difference the ALMR System made in fighting these fire, as compared to the Miller's Reach fire when the System didn't exist in that area.

7. New Business.

a. FirstNet Briefing. Mr. Steve Noel, FirstNet Regional Coordinator provided an overview briefing to the group. During the briefing, he advised the council the initial FirstNet consultation for Alaska is to be held on September 9.. Mr. Noel stated he liked that Alaska already had its own System in place. He reminded everyone that FirstNet would only provide data initially and that they must maintain their existing LMR system for the long term.

Mr. Woodall asked after the briefing if FirstNet was building the Information Assurance process that the Federal agencies required into the FirstNet framework. He also noted for Mr. Noel, that the NTIA had not provided back the funds from the spectrum the DOD had sold, as originally promised, so it would be prudent not to count on money from any spectrum they planned to sell to fund FirstNet.

Mr. Bates stated the perception was that everyone would get access once FirstNet was built. Mr. Noel advised that those areas covered by ALMR or cell phone service were probably the only areas that would be covered to start with.

Mr. Woodall asked if FirstNet would be dispatch centric and Mr. Noel advised NextGen 911 would change how dispatch operates; FirstNet was just the system not the processes. Mr. Woodall asked if there would be built in redundancy from the start and Mr. Noel stated FirstNet would be built in a phased approach with

input from a public safety advisory board. He advised he didn't have any answers yet and that this was a big project with a long way to go.

b. Mr. Woodall stated the Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICPs) needed to be updated again. He stated initially the DOD had paid for all the updates but the documents had been turned over to the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) and they had done the last update.

Mr. Smith stated the name really needed to be changed to drop the word "tactical" and Mr. Woodall suggested it be changed to Strategic Interoperable Communications Plans instead. Mr. Woodall also noted these plans were key to agencies practicing active shooter and other types of scenarios because they were a one-stop location for all the regional contact and communications information.

Mr. Woodall suggested that the update needed to be added to the budget or perhaps become part of the new OMO contract and cost shared or be added as an option to the current contract.

Mr. Woodall also mentioned the need to include subscribers in the budget and Mr. Smith advised the subscribers were owned by the agencies so he questioned whether it was a good fit to add to the ALMR budget document.

Mr. Woodall stated the agencies would be going through upgrades before FirstNet was fully put into place, so something would need to be worked out/decided.

8. Next Meeting. Deputy Commissioner Vrabec briefed the next meeting is scheduled for August 20, at 1:30 p.m. at 5900 E Tudor Road in the Enterprise Technology Services Conference Room.

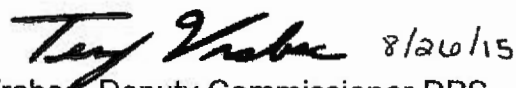
9. Adjourn Meeting. Deputy Commissioner Vrabec asked if there were any other items for council discussion.

Hearing no comments, Deputy Commissioner Vrabec for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Adjourn the July monthly Executive Council meeting.

The motion was made by ASAC Condo and seconded by Mr. Woodall, on behalf of Colonel Hoang. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:03 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, ASAC Dave Condo

MOA, Lt Ken Spadafora

AML, Ms. Linda Murphy

SOA ETS, Mr. Jim Bates

ALCOM/J60, LTC Glenn Mellor

SOA ETS, Mr. Scott Stormo

ALCOM/J64, Mr. Timothy Woodall

OMO, Mr. Del Smith

MOA, Mr. Trygve Erickson