



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



MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council

October 15, 2015

FROM: DOD Executive Co-Chair

SUBJECT: September 24, 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

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests Present:

Mr. Del Smith

Operations Manager, ALMR

Deputy Chief Brad Johnson

User Council Chair (via teleconference)

Mr. Scott Stormo

ETS SATS/ALMR Manager

Mr. Tim Woodall

DOD ALMR Program Manager

Mr. Trygve Erickson

Municipality of Anchorage AWARN Manager (via teleconference)

Mr. John Rockwell

DPS, 911 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 1:38 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 August meeting minutes and had any comments.

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

Motion: Approve the August 20 Executive Council meeting minutes, as presented.

The motion 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. Service Level Agreement (SLA). Mr. Del Smith advised Deputy Commissioner Vrabec there had been no feedback since the two of them had last discussed it and it remained with the Department of Administration (DOA).

b. Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICPs). Mr. Woodall advised there was nothing further to offer on this issue and suggested it be closed. He stated the cost to update the documents should be considered in future budgets. Mr. Woodall briefed he was currently in talks with Motorola™ and would try to include them in a package deal with them. This item is now **CLOSED**.

5. User Council Update.

a. System Impact Document. Deputy Chief Brad Johnson reminded the council this had been delivered to them on September 14. He expressed his appreciation to the Operations Management Office for their assistance. Deputy Chief Johnson stated he felt this was a good document which succinctly stated the impact to ALMR from any budget cuts and requested it be disseminated widely to spread the word.

b. User Council Vacancies. Deputy Chief Johnson stated that since the August meeting the Department of Public Safety (DPS) had appointed Lt Steve Adams as their primary representative and offered the following for consideration.

Motion: Approve the appointment of Lt Steven Adams as the primary State of Alaska Department of Public Safety representative to the ALMR User Council.

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec stated Lt Adams has lots of energy and he agreed with the appointment recommendation. He offered the motion, as presented, and it was seconded by Colonel Harold Hoang. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

6. Operations Management Office.

a. Birch Hill Master Site. Mr. Smith briefed the issue is still pending regarding the replacement of the electrical transformer but that it had been rescheduled for September 29, between 10a.m. and 2p.m.. He advised Mr. Joel Jensky and Mr. Andy Strait, from the System Management Office (SMO), would be on the ready with a generator running to take on the load for Zone 2 sites, if needed.

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec inquired if this was the site located on top of the ski area and Mr. Smith responded that it was.

b. Annual Membership Renewals. Mr. Smith advised the council there was no change from last month and the US Army-Alaska and the 673rd Air Base Wing (JBER) agreements were still pending.

c. Clear Site Power. Mr. Smith briefed the council that the System Manager, Mr. Travis Conant, had recently been to Clear and looking at options where to move the site which was just installed last year. He advised the reason for the move was the installation was shutting down the coal-fired electric generation site and the building the Clear site was in would no longer have power.

Mr. Smith stated the site personnel were looking at moving the site to the Alaska Railroad Kobe site or another location on the installation with only an 80-foot tower. He expressed concern that the second option would have a big impact on Anderson and the surrounding area agencies.

Mr. Smith also advised the council there was another possible solution of installing a generator to power the site and it would run continuously.

Mr. Woodall suggested they re-engage with AT&T about moving it back into the original site location; any other alternative would cost more than what this did.

Mr. Smith stated underground power was another option being considered but that wouldn't happen until the spring, at the soonest. He advised the council he would keep them posted.

d. Juneau Data Center. Mr. Smith explained the Juneau Data Center (JDC) would be replacing the uninterruptable power source (UPS) on Sunday, October 11. He stated this would take up to 12 hours and would affect the connectivity for ALMR sites in the Southeast. Mr. Smith advised he was going to personally call the affected agencies to tell them there would be no wide area coverage during this timeframe. He also stated that Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) was working on an alternate solution for ALMR connectivity for some sites.

e. August System Metrics. Mr. Smith noted for the council the busies had dropped dramatically. He explained there had been a rogue radio in a closet on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, which had been set up as a doomsday radio and apparently forgotten. Mr. Smith advised radio was experiencing problems and starting transmitting

on the control channel at the R1 North site causing constant busies, as well as all the traffic from R1 North to be diverted to Site Summit and Blueberry Hill. He stated Mr. Mark Jenks, SMO Technologist, was finally able to track down the radio with a spectrum analyzer and disable it, fixing the problem.

7. New Business.

a. Finance Sub-Committee. Deputy Commissioner Vrabec advised the group he had been in a discussion with a legislative liaison about a week ago and also did a presentation to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). He explained that during the presentation, the subject of ALMR came up, so he was able to present the current issue affecting the System due to the budget reductions.

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec also briefed that the DOA also presented to OMB. DOA had followed up with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) today recommending that other departments/divisions need to be getting the same information/stories to the Finance Sub-committee. Deputy Commissioner Vrabec emphasized it was imperative that non-DPS agencies write to them regarding the importance of this System and the impacts to them from underfunding/non-funding. He also felt letters of support from the users of the System would go a long way to getting the message across to the sub-committee.

Deputy Chief Johnson stated he was interested in providing a letter from the User Council along with the recently prepared impact document they had prepared. He added, as the President of the Police Chiefs' Association, he could write something from them too. Deputy Chief Johnson advised he would also encourage the Fire Chiefs' Association to submit something.

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec stated it is the right time right now to send a strong message.

Mr. Smith advised all these actions were fine, but if the money for ALMR is not in the Governor's budget, it won't go anywhere.

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec briefed that last year, they had tried to get something from those testifying on this very subject and nothing came out of it. He stated this is a good start and it is good news that it is at least on OMB's plate.

Mr. Smith stated if OMB puts something in the budget, he is ready to brief them, and has been for the last seven years, on the impacts of underfunding ALMR. He encourage the council members to ensure they called upon the people "in the know," when their testimony is needed.

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec briefed he did need to spend some time with DOA Commissioner Fisher, but he was pretty adamant with his discussions to OMB and they listened. He emphasized this System is important to a lot of the other SOA departments and he would get the names and addresses for the sub-committee.

Deputy Chief Johnson and Mr. Smith thanked him.

Mr. Scott Stormo asked Deputy Commissioner Vrabec if he had a feel whether DOA was asking for more money for ALMR in this year's budget and Deputy Commissioner Vrabec responded that DPS was just trying to stay afloat in their department, but he had mentioned to Commissioner Folger today that they needed to spend time with Commissioner Fisher.

b. Codicil to the Cooperative Agreement. Mr. Woodall explained that unfortunately the wrong version of the codicil was signed and it would have to be re-signed. He stated the "authorities" section which applies only to the DOD was incorrect and it was imperative it is correct as it allows the Cooperative Agreement to act as an interagency agreement in a contracting venue; it is critical to have the proper language. Mr. Woodall advised that the Mayor of Anchorage had changed, otherwise they could have updated the document and used the original signature page with an email concurrence to proceed.

Lt Ken Spadafora stated he didn't see any problems with getting it re-signed.

Mr. Woodall advised they would send it to the State first, then the DOD would sign it and then it would go to the Mayor of Anchorage.

Deputy Commissioner Vrabec stated the previous version should be included with the package along with a single letter of explanation.

Colonel Hoang briefed he would like to generate the letter since the change was specific to the Department of Defense (DOD) and Deputy Commissioner Vrabec stated that sounded good.

c. Motorola™ Lifecycle Briefing. Mr. Woodall updated the council that during the presentation on September 11, Motorola™ had proposed a new program called the Migration Assurance Program (MAP), which allows organizations to take all their costs – maintenance, equipment replacement, software updates, and system upgrades – and package them into a single bill spread over a number of years. He stated he was waiting for the figures for ALMR but was hopeful this approach would lower the overall operations and maintenance (O&M) and capital costs. Mr. Woodall advised once he had the information, he would brief the council.

Mr. Smith advised there were other states already engaged in this approach, such as the Ohio MARCS and Michigan MPSCS, as well as another smaller system in Las Vegas that had just entered into it.

Mr. Woodall stated it was fiscally more palatable to sustain the system this way.

d. FY17 Contract Execution. Mr. Woodall reminded the group, the DOD and SOA had to begin their contract execution process for both the OMO and SMO contracts which ended on June 30, 2016. He stated the SOA had already put out

a request for information (RFI) for potential companies to provide the maintenance services.

8. Next Meeting. Deputy Commissioner Vrabec briefed the next meeting is scheduled for October 15, 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 the council's discussion.

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

Motion: Adjourn the September monthly Executive Council meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

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

Distribution:

ALCOM/J6, Colonel Harold Hoang
FBI, ASAC Dave Condo
MOA, Deputy Chief 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