



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



MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council

November 19, 2015

FROM: DOD Executive Co-Chair

SUBJECT: October 15, 2015, ALMR Executive Council Meeting Minutes

TO: See Distribution

Executive Council Members Present:

Colonel Harold Hoang	Department of Defense (DOD) – Alaskan Command (ALCOM)/J6
Assistant Special Agent in Charge David Condo	Alaska Federal Executive Association (AFEA)/Federal Bureau of Investigation
Deputy Chief Ken Spadafora	Municipality of Anchorage – Anchorage Police Department
Ms. Linda Murphy	Alaska Municipal League (via teleconference)

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests Present:

Deputy Chief Brad Johnson	User Council Chair (via teleconference)
Mr. Del Smith	Operations Manager, ALMR
Mr. Scott Stormo	ETS SATS/ALMR Manager
Mr. Tim Woodall	DOD ALMR Program Manager
Mr. John Rockwell	DPS, 911 Coordinator
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 1:31 p.m.

2. Opening Statements and Other Announcements.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes. Colonel Hoang asked the Executive Council (EC) members if they had reviewed the September meeting minutes and had any comments.

Hearing no comments, Colonel Hoang offered a motion for their approval.

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

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

4. Old Business.

a. Service Level Agreement (SLA). Mr. Del Smith advised he had recently been in touch with the Deputy Commissioner of Administration, Mr. John Boucher, in order to run this to ground, as Deputy Commissioner Vrabec had dropped it off some time ago. Mr. Smith stated Mr. Boucher had not gotten back to him yet.

b. Codicil to the Cooperative Agreement. Mr. Tim Woodall briefed the council it had been sent to the Governor's office for signature, and after that it should go to ASAC Condo and then to General Handy. He reiterated the previous explanation regarding the importance of the "authorities" paragraph in allowing the DOD to execute contracts directly with the State of Alaska (SOA).

Del stated Deputy Commission Vrabec had given it to Commissioner Folger and that he would check on it next week.

Colonel Hoang added that he had received confirmation from Commissioner Folger that it was received and moving to the Governor's office for signature.

c. FY17 Contract Executions. Mr. Woodall explained that the State has a new contracting officer so getting him up to speed has been a bit of a shuffle.

Mr. Scott Stormo stated the new contracting officer had only been on board for one week and was currently going through the old contracts to educate himself on ALMR. He also advised the council that the State Director of Procurement had advised him that December would be the time to start the process.

Mr. Woodall briefed they may have to do some creative financing so the agencies can pass money directly to the SOA. He explained that if they didn't come up with a solid plan, the money would go into the General Fund and that is not where it needs to go; the money needs to go to the Department of Administration. He also stated they DOD was still looking at combining future lifecycle management into this process, but they have to look at the State's ability to be able to sole source. Mr. Woodall advised Congress had passed legislation allowing for shared services for shared systems but there was very little guidance on how to actually do it, so there was a huge learning curve to overcome.

Mr. Smith stated the revenue will have to be a budget decision – for anticipated revenues. He emphasized it was important for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to be

prepared; if this was going to be an on-going funding source, OMB has to get it into their budget.

5. User Council Update.

a. User Council Vacancies. Deputy Chief Johnson stated that he was glad to announce all the primary representative positions were now filled. He added there were still three alternative positions vacant; therefore, this issue would remain on the agenda as a discussion item until such time those were filled.

b. Annual Elections. Deputy Chief Johnson advised the council members the Chair and Vice Chair positions were both elected positions with a one-year term. He explained the nomination process was currently taking place and the Operations Management Office (OMO) was collecting the names. Deputy Chief Johnson stated the elections would be held immediately afterward with the selectees announced at their December meeting.

6. Operations Management Office.

a. Birch Hill Master Site Battery Plant. Mr. Smith briefed the plant still had not been replaced but the most recent concern regarding the replacement of a transformer at Birch Hill had caused no issues, as it was not attached to the site. He explained there were still two System Management Office (SMO) technologists on site with a generator running during the transformer replacement, just in case.

b. Annual Membership Renewals. Mr. Smith advised the council there was no change from last month but the OMO had provided Mr. Woodall with copies of the agreements again.

Colonel Hoang stated he had pushed the agreements up to the 673rd Air Base Wing and US Army-Alaska and their staffs were reviewing them before they were signed.

c. Clear Site Power. Mr. Smith briefed the council the power disconnect had been pushed back to December. He explained he had spoken to the System Manager and been advised it would take \$70K to run power to the site, which was a lot cheaper than moving it again. Mr. Smith also stated there was a Federal Aviation Administration site close by that will also lose power, which may affect any decisions by Clear. He pointed out that the State Kobe site had been previously mentioned as an option for relocation but the Alaska Railroad, who owns the site, was not amenable to the idea at the time, but may not have any objection to the Clear site being moved there now.

d. September System Metrics. Mr. Smith noted the voice calls were down around 200K, but he stated this was a normal seasonal trend. He also pointed out the steep decline in the busies, which he attributed to the disabling of the rogue “doomsday” radio at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, which had been tying up the R1 North control channel.

e. Juneau Data Center (JDC) Power Outage. Colonel Hoang asked about the JDC outage and if no news was good news.

Mr. Smith advised the outage had occurred this past Sunday, October 11, starting at 5:00a.m. He stated there were no affects to ALMR other than the Sitka site was down from 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Mr. Smith pointed out the Sitka site has not been declared operational at this time due to the connectivity issues, which he explained the SOA Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) Division was still working on. He gave kudos to Mr. Scott Stormo and his crew for the excellent job in coordinating the outage well ahead of time to ensure it went well.

Colonel Hoang told Mr. Stormo “good job on getting the word out” and thanked him for doing it.

7. New Business.

a. FY16 Cost Share Cooperative Agreement. Mr. Smith advised the council members that with the retirement of Deputy Commissioner Vrabec, there was now no one at the Department of Public Safety to sign it. He stated he had sent an email to Commissioner Folger regarding the issue, but that he was currently traveling and had not responded.

Mr. Woodall stated there was no change from last year’s agreement so the delay in signature would not cause any problems.

b. Lifecycle Meeting. Mr. Woodall briefed the DOD and the other infrastructure owners had met with Motorola™ who had introduced the Maintenance Assurance Program (MAP). He explained it was like having a shopping cart and throwing all the various things you need in it and the total cost was then balanced over a number of years. Mr. Woodall stated this type of approach might be more palatable than a large capital investment, when it comes to updates and equipment end-of-life replacements. He advised that Motorola™ was currently in the process of getting the cost figures together for the DOD, SOA and the Municipality of Anchorage.

c. Separation Study. Mr. Woodall noted there was also a need to relook at the Separation Study that had been accomplished in 2008. He advised they were working with Motorola™ to update it, as it was important to know what a separation would look like today. Mr. Woodall briefed the updated study would help senior leadership understand the cost to sustain the System is much less than breaking it apart and going to separate new systems. He explained it would identify the capital cost implications in the fight for funds. Mr. Woodall also advised it was worth having an updated plan for separation, in case something should occur.

ASAC Condo asked if the study included the frequency licensing because the Non-DOD agencies would certainly have to look at licensing if they had to get their own systems.

Mr. Smith added the current 120 pairs would be split apart.

Mr. Woodall explained the frequency waiver allows ALMR to share the frequencies as long as the partnership exists. He stated the fixed infrastructure utilizes all public safety frequencies and the mobile/handhelds utilize DOD tactical training spectrum. Mr. Woodall advised if the System split there would be a need for a significant infrastructure change and also subscriber replacement; the State would also have a spectrum problem with the number of sites and having to divide their frequencies between the fixed and mobile infrastructure.

ASAC Condo asked if they were communicating that fact through the scenarios.

Mr. Woodall briefed the agencies could go back to a conventional approach but this would be going backwards with interoperability, as well. He emphasized, as funding becomes critical, this shared frequency approach solidifies that ALMR did a good thing and the shared system saves money and is more robust than separate systems would ever be.

ASAC Condo asked if a split would be the equivalent of a forklift operation and Mr. Woodall replied yes, it would.

Mr. Woodall also advised the group the local agencies would be greatly impacted and Brad could attest to the lower quality of conventional systems.

Deputy Chief Johnson agreed they were far less efficient.

Mr. Woodall added that hopefully the study and other efforts would help defend the fiscal requirements. He advised that once all the associated MAP pricing is available and the Separation Study is updated, he would like to provide a presentation to the Executive Council.

d. New SOA Co-Chair. Colonel Hoang asked once a new Deputy Commissioner for Public Safety was named, what was the plan for bringing them up to speed.

Mr. Woodall stated that the OMO puts together a binder and provides an ALMR 101 briefing.

Mr. Smith advised he had some concerns that the SOA Co-Chair may not be the new Deputy Commissioner; he stated Chief Bill Comer, Valdez Police Department, had been named to fill the position.

Colonel Hoang asked if the OMO could lean forward until the SOA Co-Chair is appointed.

e. ALMR Support Letters. Mr. Smith stated that previously Deputy Commissioner Vrabec had suggested sending letters of support for ALMR to the Department of Administration Finance Sub-Committee Chair, but had later talked to the Legislative liaison and was told to hold off. Mr. Smith advised this action was on hold until it could be determined if it was still a good approach.

8. Next Meeting. Colonel Hoang briefed the next meeting is scheduled for November 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 the council's discussion.

Hearing no comments, Colonel Hoang requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Adjourn the October monthly Executive Council meeting.

The motion was made by ASAC Condo and second by Colonel Hoang. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 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