



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



**MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council**

**January 22, 2016**

**FROM: DOD Executive Co-Chair**

**SUBJECT: November 19, 2015, ALMR Executive Council Meeting Minutes**

**TO: See Distribution**

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**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 (via teleconference)
Deputy Chief Ken Spadafora	Municipality of Anchorage – Anchorage Police Department

**ALMR Support Team Members and Guests Present:**

Mr. Ocie Adams	User Council Vice Chair
Mr. Del Smith	Operations Manager, ALMR
Mr. John Boucher	DOA Deputy Commissioner
Mr. Scott Stormo	ETS SATS/ALMR Manager
Mr. Tim Woodall	DOD ALMR Program Manager
Mr. Rich Leber	Technical Advisor, ALMR
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 1:34 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 October meeting minutes and had any comments.

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

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

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

#### **4. Old Business.**

a. Service Level Agreement (SLA). Mr. Del Smith advised he just been on the phone with the Deputy Commissioner of Administration, Mr. John Boucher, answering some questions regarding the document. Del stated that Deputy Commissioner Boucher advised him it had been signed and it could be picked up next week.

b. Codicil to the Cooperative Agreement. Mr. Smith briefed as previously advised, Deputy Commissioner Vrabec had passed the document to Commissioner Folger. Del stated Commissioner Folger had called him last week to let him know it was still in the Governor's office for signature

Del advised that he would check on it again next week.

c. FY17 Contract Executions. Mr. Tim Woodall deferred to Mr. Scott Stormo to provide this week's update.

Mr. Stormo stated the new contracting officer had been going through the contracts and when he had last talked to him, the Operations Management Office (OMO) contract does not expire, but has an option for another term; however, the System Management Office (SMO) contract with Bering Straits was ending. Mr. Stormo noted that he would have to start a conversation with Deputy Commissioner Boucher to see how they will proceed.

Mr. Woodall asked Scott if he knew if an RFI was required or if it would go straight to the bid process.

Mr. Stormo stated he was not sure but in the past, Mr. Max McGrath had had sent out an RFI.

Mr. Woodall asked Scott if he knew the State's contract timeline and if the Department of Defense (DOD) would be required to put the contract funds upfront. He explained that the codicil was tied to the contracting process, therefore, it had to be signed first before any funds were allotted.

Colonel Hoang pointed out that an RFI could proceed before the codicil was signed.

Mr. Woodall briefed, that from a funds perspective, the DOD was locked at last year's contract price with a five percent inflation allowance. He noted the DOD would have to know what their constraints are so the services could begin budgeting.

Mr. Stormo asked about the System Upgrade Assistance (SUA) program and Mr. Woodall advised it would have to be added in the form of contract line item (CLIN) options, but it was difficult to know at this point if it would be added.

Mr. Woodall pointed out that if the DOD could get some advice by December, it would help and Colonel Hoang added that unless the services had time to provide their portion of the funding, there could be an issue with the contract execution.

Mr. Stormo advised the group that the State's funding was also significantly less than what the Executive Council had approved.

Mr. Woodall noted that until they got the contract bids, the DOD could not construct a contract. They would have to look at what needed to be listed as primary services and everything else would have to be options.

d. FY16 Cost Share Agreement. Mr. Smith advised that the document was still pending a designated SOA signatory and according to Commissioner Folger it would be Bill Comer once he took office as the Deputy Commissioner. Mr. Smith stated he would get this taken care of as soon as Comer was on board.

## **5. User Council Update.**

a. Annual Elections. Mr. Ocie Adams, Vice Chair, advised the Executive Council stated that the User Council was currently in the process of voting with all ballots due on November 30 and the selectees would be announced at the December 2 User Council meeting.

b. User Council Vacancies. Mr. Adams stated the Federal Bureau of Investigation notified the OMO that they had appointed a new alternate, as Mr. Paul Arasz had transferred to the lower 48, and the Department of Public Safety was able to fill their alternate position, which has been empty for the past couple of years. He offered the following motion is offered for their consideration.

**Motion: Approve the appointment of Mr. David Brown, as the alternate Federal Bureau of Investigation representative, and the appointment of Mr. John Rockwell, as the alternate Department of Public Safety representative, to the ALMR User Council.**

ASAC Condo advised he had no problem with the appointments and offered the motion, as provided, and Colonel Hoang seconded the motion. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

## **6. Operations Management Office.**

a. Birch Hill Master Site Battery Plant. Mr. Smith briefed that the battery plant had been installed on November 17 – 18. He stated one half of the plant had a single cracked battery and replacement had been emergency ordered and should arrive next week. Mr. Smith advised the council the battery plant could maintain the site for 60 minutes run time until the generator started, which should be well before the 60 minute timeframe.

b. Annual Membership Agreement Renewals. Mr. Smith stated both the USARAK and the JBER agreements had been received, with the help of Colonel Hoang, and this action was completed for this fiscal year.

c. Clear Site Power. Mr. Smith briefed that an estimate had been provided for moving the site to Kobe, as well as for running a new power supply to the existing site. He advised that the site had not been turned off, as previous advised but nothing would be done until the Clear personnel provided their final decision.

Mr. Woodall asked if the site was turned off if it affected anyone else.

Mr. Smith explained Anderson Volunteer Fire Department, the Alaska State Troopers (AST) and the Department of Transportation and Public Services would all be affected. He briefed the closest site would then be Nenana, which was over a hill and that when the site had previously been removed, there was degraded coverage in the entire area.

d. October System Metrics. Mr. Smith advised the voice calls were up by approximately 10K, but the busies were only up by 25. He explained this was to be expected at this time of year.

e. Shooting Incident in Anchorage. Mr. Smith briefed the council that there had been a recent shooting in Anchorage and the suspect fled to the Wasilla area. He stated AST, Anchorage Police Department (APD), Federal Bureau of Investigation, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Security Forces (SF) and the Alaska Railroad Police had all been involved in a coordinated apprehension effort. He explained he had spoken with many of the agencies involved and the communications was very good among all of them. The one thing he pointed out was that the dispatcher patched APD with AST rather than utilizing the preferred method of shared talkgroups in the Incident Command Zone.

Mr. Smith also mentioned that while he was currently out of state and in Washington and Idaho area, Spokane, Washington, had experienced a major wind storm with at least 157K people without power for 5 days or more and even Idaho had experienced a 20-hour outage. During the major part of the storm, all cellular services had been out. Mr. Smith pointed out these are the types of events, highlight the value of the ALMR System.

He stated he planned to follow up with public safety officials in Washington to see how their system worked throughout the storm and to write an article for the Insider newsletter.

Colonel Hoang noted this highlighted the positive impact for Alaska in having the ALMR System.

Deputy Chief Ken Spadafora advised the manhunt was the largest amount of agencies that APD had interoperable communications with for an event and it was the longest incident, as well. He stated that APD has an agreement in place with the JBER Communication Squadron to create an encrypted patch when they need it between APD and the SF. Deputy Chief Spadafora pointed out that they train often for these types of incidents and all the agencies utilized common language/plain talk during the event.

Mr. Smith stated that was an excellent point and part of the 5 Star Team logo which says, "Plan to talk, before you push to talk."

Deputy Chief Spadafora also noted that their dispatchers practice at every opportunity.

## **7. New Business.**

Cisco IP Interoperability and Collaboration System (IPICS). Mr. Adams advised the council DOT&PF had been in talks with Cisco about the possibility of utilizing their IPICS along the Dalton Highway but it had not passed the Defense Information Assurance Certification and Accreditation Process (DIACAP) yet, which was the standard for the Federal agencies. He pointed out they were utilizing single channel repeaters right now if they could implement an open system they could get around the patching process required for analog radios. Mr. Adams pointed out that they were also looking at a digital patching system, which could be the next generation for ALMR.

Mr. Woodall advised the IPICS was a non-trunking, conventional system with repeater voting. He explained they would still need an Inter Subsystem Interface (ISSI) to pass the information through a trunking server. He stated this type of setup would allow rural systems to tie back into systems such as ALMR. He noted ISSI is an APCO Project 25 (P25) standard that currently has no certification authority, therefore Cisco™ and Motorola™ would have to self-certify. Mr. Woodall pointed out that from an Information Assurance (IA) perspective, the ALMR System is considered a hardened system and that would have to occur to any components wishing to connect to ALMR. He also noted that as ALMR moves into the arctic region, it would be good to have these types of systems.

Mr. Adams stated this type of system was best suited as a gap filler for remote locations where we currently have no ALMR coverage, such as the Tok Cutoff. He also pointed out there could be problems putting Public Safety communications on a transport backbone controlled by private industry and built to support the private customer base. Mr. Adams noted during an emergency, unless public safety is given the priority, no one would be able to talk; additionally, if public safety did have priority, then the private citizen would be locked out and that is not acceptable either.

Mr. Stormo advised that the conventional system would have to be trunked first and that the current discussion only involved the proof of concept.

Deputy Commissioner John Boucher asked if this could be a viable alternative to the next generation of ALMR as they approach the point of whether the system is refreshed under the current model or transitioned to a different model.

Deputy Chief Spadafora asked if it was at a point where it could be hooked up and Mr. Adams pointed out it was not DIACAP certified.

Mr. Woodall pointed out the manufacturer has to provide IA certification before any equipment would be purchased, then a certifier would look at the system and run the tests before it was declared to meet the Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS).

Deputy Commissioner Boucher asked if the certification process was primarily for the DOD and Mr. Woodall stated it was for any Federal agency.

Colonel Hoang explained the DOD has a process to identify and mitigate risks associated with the System certification or to accept those risks.

Colonel Hoang advised that other Federal agencies do something similar.

Mr. Stormo briefed they had discussed several scenarios and issues regarding solutions and did note that IPICS could be done over the State's local area network (LAN), which was not locked down to the DOD standards. He noted that planning and execution is the bigger concern as the State could add a site anywhere into ALMR at this time using the current standards and it would immediately work, but when you start adding different platforms that is where you have to do more planning and research.

Mr. Woodall remarked that in today's cyber environment, systems are vulnerable to attacks and the DIACAP mitigates the risks associated with such attacks.

Colonel Hoang pointed out that the DOD had enlisted a trusted agent during an exercise two weeks ago. A mock cyber war to infiltrate the communications system was part of the exercise and their cyber team was able to effectively shut down all communications and operations through vulnerabilities.

**8. Next Meeting.** Colonel Hoang briefed the next meeting is scheduled for December 17, at 1:30 p.m. at 5900 E Tudor Road in the Enterprise Technology Services Conference Room, but he would be on leave.

The OMO stated they would send out a request for availability and try to re-schedule the meeting when it was convenient for the majority of members.

**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 November 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 2:34 p.m.

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

**Distribution:**

SOA DPS, Deputy Commissioner Bill Comer  
ALCOM/J6, Colonel Harold Hoang  
FBI, ASAC Dave Condo  
MOA, Deputy Chief Ken Spadafora  
AML, Ms. Linda Murphy  
Deputy Commissioner John Boucher  
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