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

MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council **July 14, 2016**

FROM: SOA Co-Chair

SUBJECT: July 22, 2016, Meeting Agenda

TO: See Distribution

1. Call to Order. Deputy Commissioner Bill Comer, State of Alaska (SOA) Co-Chair will call the meeting to order. The roll will be taken.

2. Opening Statements and Other Announcements.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes. (Deputy Commissioner Comer) Review of the draft minutes from the June Executive Council meeting. (Atch 1)

The following motion is offered to the council for consideration.

> **Motion: Approve June 16, 2016, Executive Council meeting minutes, as presented.**

4. Old Business.

a. FY17 Contract Execution Action for the Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance Services (IOMS) contract. At the June meeting, Mr. Tim Woodall advised the council members that they were in the stage of negotiations during the re-bid of the IOMS contract where they were no longer able to discuss any issues regarding the contract, but it was moving along fine and Mr. Scott Stormo concurred.

b. OMO FY17 Contract. At the June meeting, Mr. Smith stated there was no reason to believe the Operations Management Office (OMO) contract won't be issued by July 1, but was still dependent on the Legislature passing the final budget.

c. Municipality of Anchorage Executive Council member replacement. Deputy Chief Ken Spadafora had previously announced his retirement, which was effective June 10, so his position on the council is currently vacant. A copy of the appointment letter was sent to Captain Justin Doll.

5. User Council Update. (Mr. Ocie Adams)

a. New council vacancy – Municipalities Central alternate.

b. Vacancies still exist for the alternate Southeast-Municipalities position, both the primary and alternate US Army-Alaska (USARAK) positions and for the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) alternate position.

NOTE: This item will remain **OPEN** on the agenda until resolution.

6. Operations Management Office. (Mr. Del Smith)

a. Annual subscriber inventory

b. FY18 OMO/SMO Budget

c. June System metrics (Atch 2)

d. Pole Hill, Hill 3265 and AWARN System Change Requests

7. New Business.

8. Next Meeting. (Deputy Commissioner Comer) The next meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2016, 1:30 p.m. at the Enterprise Technology Services Conference Room, 5900 E Tudor Road.

9. Adjourn Meeting. (Deputy Commissioner Comer)

Bill Comer, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Public Safety
ALMR Executive Council

2 Attachments:
1. Draft June Meeting Minutes
2. June System Metrics

Distribution:
SOA/DPS, Deputy Commissioner Bill Comer
ALCOM/J6, Colonel Harold Hoang
FBI, ASAC David Condo
AML, Ms. Linda Murphy
SOA DOA, Mr. John Boucher
SOA ETS, Mr. Jim Steele
SOA ETS, Mr. Scott Stormo
ALCOM/J64, Mr. Timothy Woodall
MOA, Mr. Trygve Erickson
SOA DOT, Mr. Ocie Adams
OMO, Mr. Del Smith

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

MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council **July XX, 2016**

FROM: SOA Executive Co-Chair

SUBJECT: June 16, 2016, ALMR Executive Council Meeting Minutes

TO: See Distribution

Executive Council Members Present:

Deputy Commissioner Bill Comer	State of Alaska – Department of Public Safety
Colonel Harold Hoang	Department of Defense – Alaskan Command (ALCOM)/J6)
Ms. Linda Murphy	Alaska Municipal League (AML) (via Teleconference)

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests Present:

Mr. Ocie Adams	User Council Vice Chair (via teleconference)
Mr. Jim Steele	SOA Department of Administration (via teleconference)
Mr. Del Smith	Operations Manager
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, E911 Coordinator
Ms. Sherry Shafer	Operations Management Office

1. Call to Order. Deputy Commissioner Bill Comer, State of Alaska (SOA) Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. and the roll call was read.

2. Opening Statements and Other Announcements.

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There were no opening statements or announcements.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes. Deputy Commissioner Comer asked the Executive Council (EC) members if they had reviewed the April meeting minutes and if they had any changes. Hearing none, he requested a motion for their approval.

> **Motion: Approve the April 21 Executive Council meeting minutes as written.**

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

4. Old Business.

a. FY17 Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance Services (IOMS) Contract Execution. Mr. Tim Woodall advised the council members that they were in stage of negotiations during the re-bid of the IOMS contract were they were no longer able to discuss any issues regarding the contract but it was moving along fine. Mr. Scott Stormo agreed.

Mr. Tim Woodall indicated the State of Alaska (SOA) had graciously included the Department of Defense (DOD) sites in any extension of the current contract for maintenance, so services will not stop on July 1. He noted this extension would bridge the DOD until the award of the new maintenance contract, which could happen sooner than originally expected.

Mr. Woodall also stated the DOD finance office was in discussion with the SOA finance office on the process of how funds could be transferred.

Deputy Commissioner Comer asked if the dollar amount would be back at the full amount and Mr. Woodall explained the amount would be in accordance with agreed upon amount that comes out of the request for proposal (RFP).

DC asked if the contract would be awarded quicker than originally thought and Mr. Scott Stormo stated respondents would have the opportunity to protest the award, which could possibly delay the contract award.

Mr. Woodall stated they would have a contract vehicle to purchase services during any delay which would be on a month-to-month basis.

Colonel Hoang stated he appreciated the State working with the DOD to help minimize the concerns regarding a possible lapse of maintenance coverage and Mr. Stormo concurred stating whether it was done through an extension or new contract, the DOD would be included.

b. FY17 OMO Contract. Mr. Smith stated there was no reason to believe the Operations Management Office (OMO) contract won't be issued by July 1, but was still dependent on the Legislature passing the final budget.

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5. User Council Update.

a. User Council Vacancies. Mr. Ocie Adams noted the same vacancies that were mentioned at the last meeting still existed and they were the Southeast alternate position, both the USARAK primary and alternate positions and the JBER alternate position.

b. New Member Agency Request. Mr. Adams stated the User Council (UC) was looking at the request by REACT Alaska to join ALMR and Mr. Greg Eubank, the UC SOA – All Others representative, was doing some research and would brief the UC in July, so they could make a final decision. He provide a short synopsis on their mission for Deputy Commissioner Comer's edification.

6. Operations Management Office.

a. Annual Subscriber Inventory. Mr. Smith advised the council members that all agencies had returned their confirmation forms with the exception of the two USARAK forts up North. He explained that after Mr. Rich Garrett had left in January, no point of contact had been provided.

Mr. Woodall advised him it should be Mr. Joel Jensky.

Mr. Smith stated he had called and left a message for Mr. Jensky to call him regarding the inventory.

b. May metrics. Mr. Smith briefed that voice calls were approximately 1.3M in May, which was up from 1.1M, and busies were up by 500 from April. He explained of the 822 busies, most of those busies were from the Red Flag Exercise at Eielson Air Force Base and the use of the telephone interconnect from Range Safety also had an impact..

Mr. Woodall stated the range used the radio as a telephone for safety reasons and they were aware of the busies and accepted that.

Colonel Hoang advised that Operation Colony Glacier was also ongoing and he was unsure how much impact it would be on the System.

Mr. John Rockwell asked if the temporary loss of the Cottonwood Creek site had any effect on the System.

Mr. Smith explained there was no significant impact because the Alcantra site was nearby, their coverage areas were pretty identical and calls could easily route through it. He pointed out that in-building coverage was probably affected during the site down time, but there were no substantial busies otherwise.

Mr. Smith pointed out that the System Management Office (SMO) and the SOA personnel did an outstanding job in getting the site operational in 10 days. He stated that Mr. Stormo and his crews were working over the holiday weekend rerouting circuits. On Monday, Mr. Stormo had outlined the duties to be accomplished and everyone promptly

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followed up on assigned tasks. Mr. Smith also noted that the DOD had offered to loan their spare Quantars for the site and that they were lucky the location of the site was where it was, otherwise it could have been an issue getting parts and staff to the site if it had been on a mountain.

Colonel Hoang emphasized the fact this was a partnership and the DOD spares are always available in any emergency.

Mr. Smith noted the site Quantars appeared okay but there had been some smoke damage because the fans continued to run when the backup generator kicked in so switching them out was the right thing to do.

Mr. Stormo also pointed out that Matanuska Telephone Association (MTA) had worked alongside them to route the commercial circuits to Alcantra to get back up and the wide-area network (WAN) traffic re-established. He noted the State also received parts and pieces from the railroad and the DOD to get the equipment back in the shelter as quickly as possible. Mr. Stormo stated the State contacted Taylor Restoration who cleaned and repainted the shelter over the following week and were finished by Friday. He noted by the following Wednesday they had working microwave, so the shelter was basically rebuilt in five days. Mr. Stormo stated the lightning protection equipment that was in place was fried but it did what it was supposed to do.

Colonel Hoang advised the group he had highlighted the situation with the Cottonwood site to the General in the weekly report and emphasized that there would have been a 90 – 100 day wait for the replacement spares.

c. Membership Agreements. Mr. Smith advised that membership agreements are normally renewed each year starting in May and take effect on July 1, but due to the re-bid of the IOMS contract and the uncertainty of the State budget approval, there are no cost share amounts to list in individual agency agreements. He proposed that current agreements be extended until such time as a new IOMS contract is in place and shared costs can be calculated. Mr. Smith advised the members that some of the Federal Non-DOD agencies had already contacted the OMO regarding their agreements and FY17 cost share amounts and making payments.

Mr. Smith provided/read the following motion for the council's consideration.

> **Motion:** Request the Executive Council approve a 90-day extension of all existing ALMR Membership Agreements, and extensions in 30-day increments thereafter, until such time as both the State of Alaska FY17 budget is approved and the Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance Services Contract is awarded.

Both Deputy Commissioner Comer and Colonel Hoang agreed this was appropriate given the circumstances.

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

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Mr. Rockwell asked if this would change the traditional dates of renewal of the agreements and Mr. Smith advised him it would not, because the agreements are based on the State's fiscal year.

7. <u>New Business</u>.

a. Outage Notifications. Mr. Rockwell stated there was an outage on Friday for 30 minutes in the Valley and he had been unaware of it at the time. He asked if there was a process for notification.

Mr. Smith advised him the Help Desk sends out notifications for planned and un-planned outages to agency-appointed contacts and Lt Steve Adams was the contact for the Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Stormo advised Mr. Rockwell if there were further questions regarding outage notifications to refer the individuals to the Help Desk.

Mr. Rockwell stated he would check with Lt Adams and have him forward the notifications, when appropriate.

Mr. Smith stated, in the case of unscheduled outages during the night, notifications would come from Motorola, such as a site bouncing 3 times in a 30-minute window.

b. SOA FY17 Budget. Deputy Commissioner Comer asked what the process was for budgeting each year.

Mr. Smith explained the OMO prepares a budget each year that covers the shared and centric costs for the DOD and the State for the OMO, SMO and infrastructure maintenance costs and may also include security updates or System software platform updates.

Deputy Commissioner Comer clarified he was looking at the capital costs that aren't in the operating budget such as consoles for the dispatch centers. He wondered why they weren't in the operating budget and why it didn't cover a five-year cycle versus a one-year cycle.

Mr. Smith explained that it wasn't an issue for ALMR and that Mr. Stormo's predecessor had put together a five-year cost break out for the Quantars and console replacements, but it didn't get much traction outside of his office, although it did go up to the Department of Administration.

Deputy Commissioner Comer stated he had a contact at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that he is supposed to work with on ALMR issues, so maybe they could rough the costs up again and push it upward.

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Mr. Smith stated, to his recollection, it included the Quantars and also the projected annual System update payment and Mr. Stormo added it also included the master sites. He clarified the lobbyists for another entity had spoken against the costs.

Deputy Commissioner Comer advised he had heard about the amount and that they had to figure out how to approach it differently because there may be procurement rules or laws that prohibit it so we have to figure out a way to scope it out over the next five years, in order to present it to the Legislature.

c. MatSu Borough. Deputy Commissioner Comer stated he and a group had recently attended a meeting with the Mayor of Wasilla, Chief Belden, Mr. Joel Butcher, Director Bill Gamble, Mr. Steve Colligan and Mayor Coddle, which seemed to be enlightening for the borough people and it was a positive meeting in the sense we educated them about the benefits of using ALMR, versus spending a significant amount of money trying to build their own 700MHz system. Deputy Commissioner Comer revisited the fact with them that ALMR had over one million voice calls monthly with less than one percent busies and a lot of their information really didn't pan out.

Deputy Commissioner Comer said the group also brought up other issues like the never-ending rumors of being charged to use ALMR and also hearing ALMR was going away, so he clarified as the former Chief of Valdez Police Department, who'd been on the System for over ten years, that it wasn't going away and there had never been a charge to use it. He thinks they came a long way and had asked Mr. Matt Leveque to reach out to Chief Gamble. Deputy Commissioner Comer stated the borough already has the radios and the bulk of the infrastructure and available revenue to put toward the equipment they need.

Deputy Commissioner Comer stated his next concern was how we help them get there.

Mr. Smith explained the process of joining the System, Talkgroup Sharing Agreements and use of the OP or Regional Incident Command Zones. He stated the borough was already on ALMR and had talkgroups. Mr. Smith also addressed the recent issue of their radio codeplug programming errors discovered during an exercise. He noted both Mr. Mark Jenks and Mr. Travis Conant had worked with Mr. Goodman to identify the problem and found the radio preferences were set to R1 North and Atwood, which was not appropriate. Mr. Smith advised that ALMR offered to take a look at all of their codeplugs, but so far they had not accepted.

Colonel Hoang stated it looked like an education and awareness challenge.

Deputy Commissioner Comer agreed and said that we needed to get the Director on board because in the latest House Finance Subcommittee vote, it was 7-4 vote with Representatives Pruitt, Sanders, Gattis and Wilson voting against it and they are all Valley guys. He noted if we get the Valley EMS and fire volunteers that are using ALMR, it would be a plus. Deputy Commissioner Comer noted they didn't want to get involved with ALMR because one of their other complaints was building penetration, but then Mr. Stormo had pointed out to them they didn't have that with their legacy system either.

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Deputy Commissioner Comer stated what they are using is not as good as what's available to them, but we just have to keep reaching out to them.

Mr. Smith advised that he was aware of some internal resistance within the organization, and this individual has never liked ALMR and doesn't think it should exist.
Deputy Commissioner Comer stated that person was present at the meeting, but was very quiet during the conversations.

Mr. Smith stated that this individual does his talking other places.

Mr. Stormo noted he was positive this individual was the one who had called shortly after the 30-minute outage and was asking why ALMR was down. Mr. Stormo stated he wanted to talk directly to this individual and find out what his concern was and advise him that he should talk to the Help Desk or call him, but calling the State Emergency Operations Center was not going to get him an answer on what's going on with ALMR. He stated it was just his perception, but he felt like there was a movement in the Valley to justify not being on ALMR, so they could build their own system whether for technical or other reasons, he couldn't answer.

Mr. Smith stated there were a couple things going on one being the bad code plugs and the other being rumors that ALMR doesn't work, but those could be dealt with, but if you have someone internally, with their own agenda, it could be a continuing problem unless squashed by the organization.

Deputy Commissioner Comer noted if Wasilla MATCOM gets the 911 contract, the easiest, cheapest, best thing they could do would be to get on board.

Mr. Woodall stated it's cheaper to add in-building BDA where they need it rather than build a whole new system.

Deputy Commissioner Comer said Assembly Member Colligan kept referring to "the Anchorage system" and Scott kept explaining it was all one System and this continued for an hour.

Mr. Trygve Erickson suggested that when they have these meetings, they might consider inviting him, because MatSu Borough has talked to him a number of times about joining the Anchorage Wide Area Radio (AWARN), but he pointed out they had all the subscribers needed for ALMR, but MatSu brought up the old issue of being charged. Mr. Erickson responded to them that they would be happy to support MatSu, but they'd have to buy 700MHz equipment for each of their sites and the interconnection for little or no cost, AWARN could support them, but at the end of the day 700MHz is not a really good fit for their territory. He expressed that he thought they were playing one side against the other but from a pure technical standpoint, trying to overlay a 700MHz system over a rural area is a duplication of energy and money, which the State doesn't have right now and it's not the greatest idea in the world.

Deputy Commissioner Comer explained it wasn't his meeting but he was there at the invitation of Mayor Coddle.

Mr. Erickson advised that he's been trying to get the Matanuska-Susitna Borough on a reasonable course for radio communications for about 35 year now and he's concluded there are too many ham radios in the Valley and those individuals are convinced they can throw some repeaters on hills and they'll be all set. He's not sure they are not on that route again with a $14M bond issue. Mr. Erickson stated that it might be worth considering making a presentation to the Borough Assembly; they are anxious to help.

d. Deputy Commissioner Comer stated he had also attended a meeting the next day with the Mayor of Wasilla and Commissioner Luiken regarding re-appropriating some mobile emergency communications money that was in a grant and it sounded very positive and it was moving forward very quickly.

Mr. Stormo asked if a portion of the money was going back to the Department of Transportation (DOT) and Deputy Commissioner Comer stated it was all going to be communications money and all going to the City of Wasilla.

Mr. Smith advised he had a phone call from the police chief out there prior to this meeting and they had discussed the $5M grant funds and working with DOT to use $700 - 800K to upgrade the existing dispatch ALMR Gold Elites to the MCC7500s and some portion to fund the by-pass around Wasilla.

Mr. John Rockwell asked if there was a timeframe when the money had to be spent and Deputy Commissioner Comer stated there was not to his knowledge. Mr. Rockwell stated he had heard comments about completion hearing it was only 100 days, making the date around September 30.

Mr. Smith stated he hadn't heard anything about an end date.

e. Deputy Chief Ken Spadafora Replacement. **NOTE:** Deputy Chief Ken Spadafora had previously announced his retirement, which was effective June 10, so his position on the council is currently vacant.

Mr. Rockwell advised the council members that Deputy Chief Spadafora had suggested that Captain Justin Doll as his replacement.

Mr. Smith stated the OMO had sent the previous appointment letter format to Deputy Chief Spadafora prior to his retirement and could also send Captain Doll a copy after the meeting.

8. Next Meeting. Deputy Commissioner Comer briefed the next meeting is scheduled for July 21, at 1:30 p.m. at 5900 E Tudor Road in the Enterprise Technology Services Conference Room and asked if it was working for most everyone. He pointed out he might have a conflict with a trip to Nome or Kotzebue.

9. Adjourn Meeting. Deputy Commissioner Comer asked if there were any other items for the council's discussion.

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

Motion: Adjourn the April monthly Executive Council meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Bill Comer, Deputy Commissioner
State of Alaska, Department of Public Safety
ALMR Executive Council

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OMO, Mr. Del Smith

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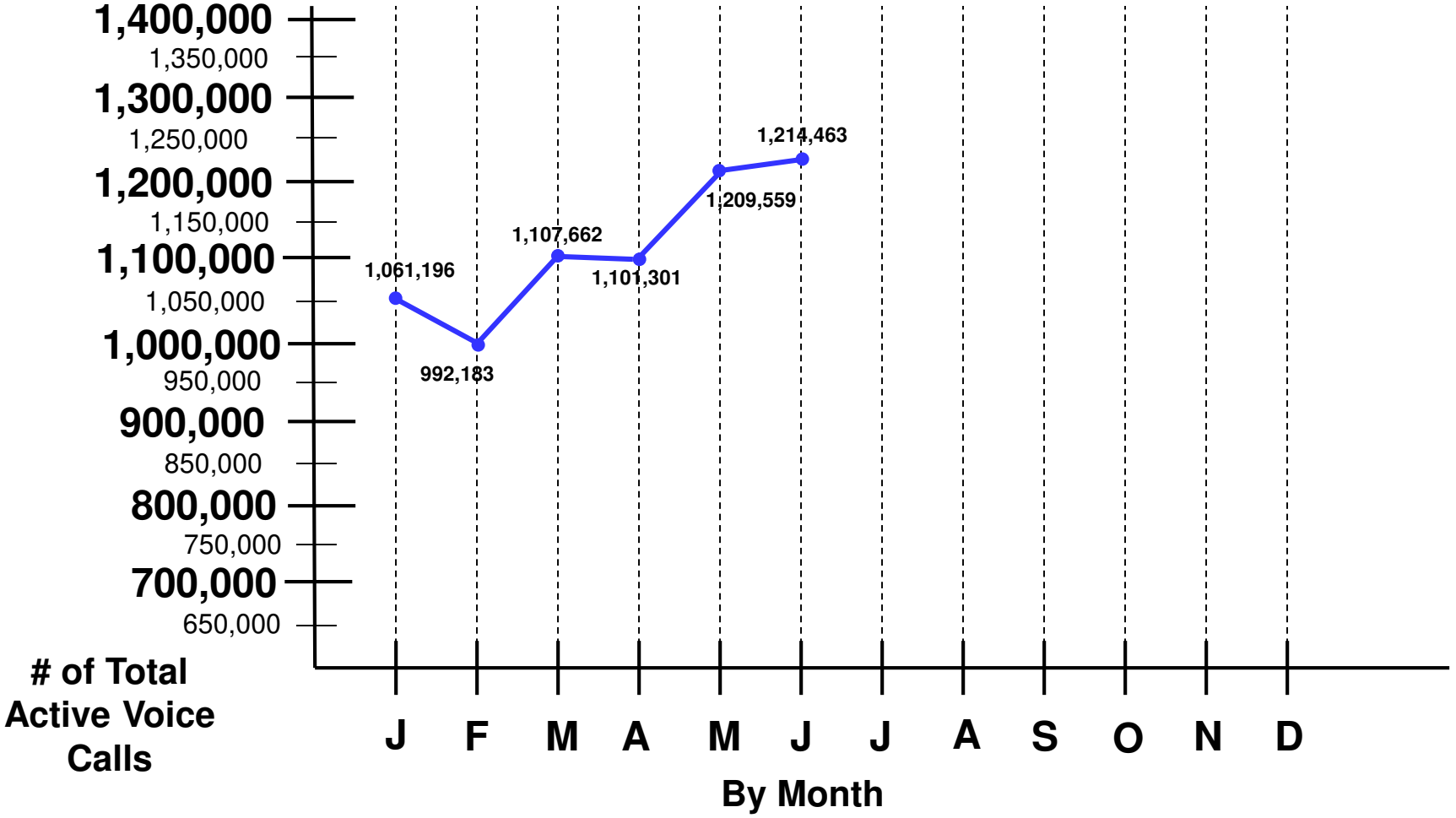
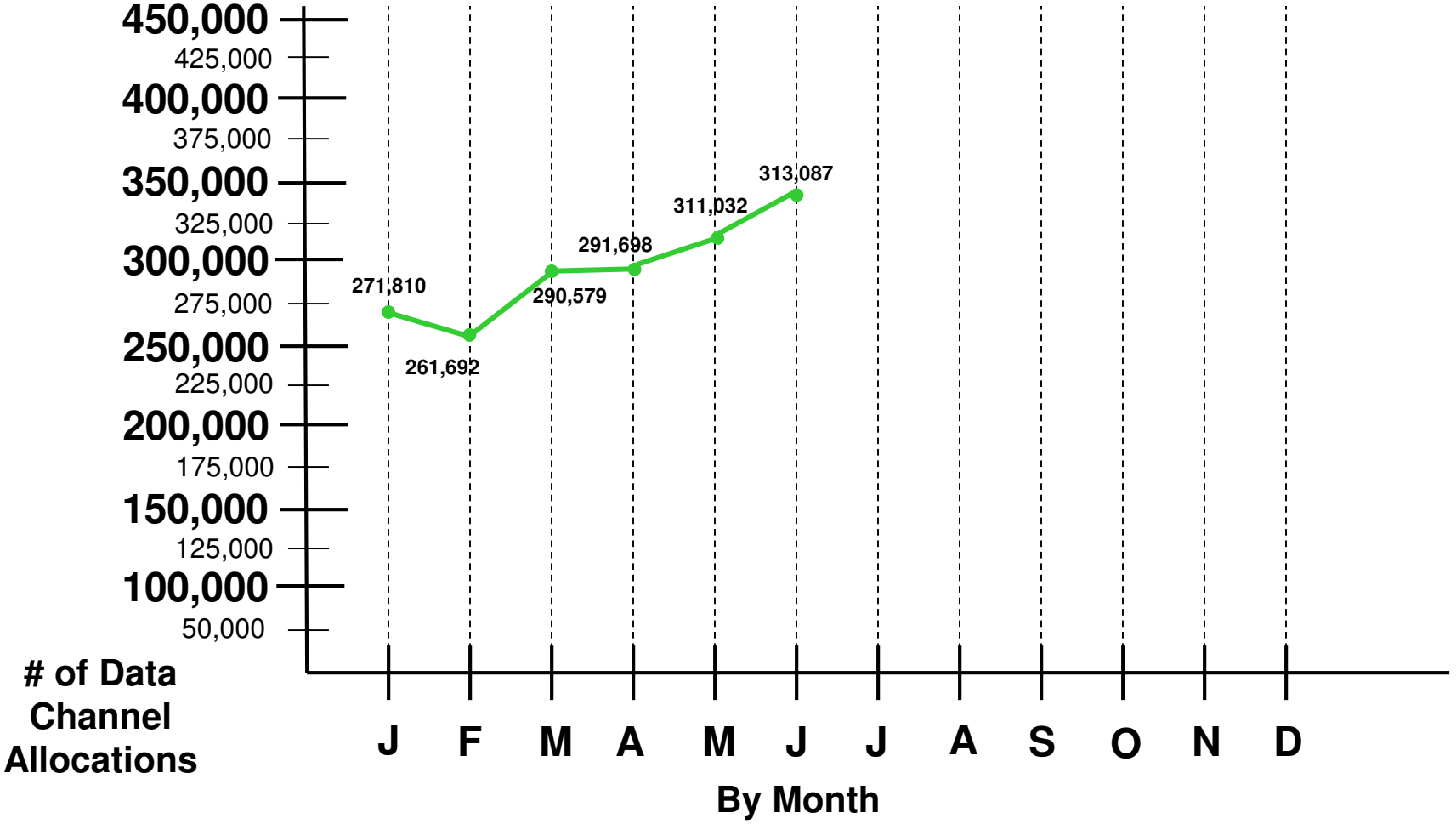
2016 System Performance
Active Voice Calls



2016 System Performance
Data Channel Allocations



2016 System Performance
Busy Voice Calls