



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



MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council

June 20, 2016

FROM: SOA Executive Co-Chair

SUBJECT: April 21, 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
Assistant Special Agent in Charge David Condo	Alaska Federal Executive Association /Federal Bureau of Investigation (via teleconference)
Ms. Linda Murphy	Alaska Municipal League (AML)

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests Present:

Mr. Ocie Adams	User Council Vice Chair (via teleconference)
Deputy Commissioner John Boucher	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. Matt Leveque	SOA SWIC and SPOC
Mr. John Rockwell	DPS, E911 Coordinator
Ms. Sherry Shafer	Operations Management Office (via teleconference)

1. Call to Order. Deputy Commissioner Bill Comer, State of Alaska (SOA) Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. and the roll call was read.

2. Opening Statements and Other Announcements.

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 March meeting minutes and if they had any changes. Hearing none, he requested a motion for their approval.

Motion: Approve the March 17 Executive Council meeting minutes with the indicated corrections.

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 IOMS Contract Execution. Deputy Commissioner Comer requested updates to this item and Mr. Scott Stormo advised the Kickoff Meeting for the request for proposal (RFP) process for the Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance Services (IOMS) contract had been held on April 15 and the RFP was posted later that evening. He stated interested parties would have the opportunity to ask questions regarding the RFP at another meeting to be held next Wednesday. Mr. Stormo noted the State of Alaska (SOA) should be able to award the contract by June.

Mr. Tim Woodall briefed the current contract would be extended on a month-to-month basis to allow for award of the new contract and any required transition actions. He pointed out the Department of Defense (DOD) had already taken the necessary actions to initiate the extensions.

Mr. Stormo indicated he still needed to discuss this issue with Bering Straits Information Technology, LLC (BSIT), who is the current contract holder.

Mr. Woodall clarified for the council members that any costs associated with an extension of the current contract would come out of the money allocated for a new contract.

Colonel Hoang asked if there was the potential to contest the process and Mr. Woodall stated responding vendors would have two weeks to file a protest action.

Deputy Commissioner Comer asked how many vendors are potentially bidding on the contract and Mr. Stormo responded that there were five.

Deputy Commissioner Comer requested an explanation of what the protest action entailed and Mr. Stormo advised if the award was given to a particular vendor and another vendor felt the process was unfair, they could contest the award.

Mr. Woodall advised the Best Value process SOA is using selects a vendor based on a scoring process of the vendor submissions, which have been sanitized to remove the proposing vendor's name. He went on to explain that once the top three are chosen from

the submissions, interviews would then be conducted and only SOA contracting would know who was chosen for the contract. Mr. Woodall stated at that point, negotiations of services would take place.

Mr. Stormo noted there would be a selection team, which included himself and Mr. Woodall, but they still had to select the additional members.

Deputy Commissioner Comer asked if the Executive Council needed to take some action to appoint someone to the selection committee and Mr. Stormo stated, at this time, he wasn't sure of the process but System users would definitely need to be part of the selection committee, as in the past.

b. FY17 OMO Contract. Mr. Smith advised that negotiations to the Operations Management Office contract were being discussed as a one-third reduction of the current contract cost. He noted that Mr. Rich Leber was retiring at the end of June and the position would not be back filled, which should meet the one-third reduction criteria. Mr. Smith advised the current contract will end on June 30, but there is an option for a single three-year extension, which SOA plans to exercise to his knowledge.

Mr. Woodall stated he still needed to get with Wostmann & Associates to understand the dollar amount.

5. User Council Update.

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

Colonel Hoang advised that he had discussed this with the DOD commanders and made them aware of the requirement. He noted JBER was looking into appointing a first responder to the council, rather than another technician.

6. Operations Management Office.

a. Annual Subscriber Inventory. Mr. Smith stated the OMO had given agencies until April 29 to complete their inventories and out of 124, 92 had responded, to date. He advised he would begin calling those agencies who had not returned their forms starting next Monday. Mr. Smith reminded the Executive Council this annual inventory was a Legislative audit requirement.

b. March metrics. Mr. Smith briefed the busies were up in March but that was concurrent with a substantial increase in voice calls.

c. Membership Agreements. Mr. Smith advised with the IOMS contract for FY17 yet to be awarded, and the SOA budget still unresolved, the cost share amounts for FY17 could not be determined. He noted agency Membership Agreements are due for renewal on July 1 and those amounts would need to be included in the agencies' agreements.

Mr. Smith stated the OMO may need to request an extension of all current agreements at the next meeting until the FY17 budget amount and associated cost share is resolved.

d. Alaska Shield Exercise. Per the request of Colonel Hoang at the March meeting, Mr. Smith briefed the group he had looked at the System data during the exercise and advised there was minimal impact.

Mr. Woodall asked Mr. Smith if he had looked at the areas where the active shooter exercise operations took place and Mr. Smith stated in Soldotna and in the "Valley" and there were just a couple hundred transmissions over "normal" days.

Mr. Smith noted that there were still some issues regarding radio user training because individuals had complained about System busies at the Ski Hill site. He stated there were no busies at Ski Hill during the timeframe, but upon further investigation by Mr. Joe Quickel and himself, it was noted the individuals were getting bonks, because the talkgroup they were trying to utilize was already in use by someone else. Mr. Smith stated when he had spoken to Ms. Tammy Goggia, Soldotna lead dispatcher, and she had relayed to him there was a lot of "babble" going on.

Mr. Smith also briefed there were complaints from the MatSu Valley that there was no coverage at the Fairgrounds and they couldn't hit Bailey Hill. He advised that Mr. Patrick Thornton from Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) and Mr. Travis Conant, System Management Office (SMO), both went to the Fairgrounds on different occasions and conducted coverage testing and everything worked fine. Mr. Smith noted upon examination of the agency's codeplug by Mr. Mark Jenks, it was found the site preferences were set to R1 North, Atwood and Atwood 800, none of which are remotely close to the area. He stated Mr. Jenks was working with the individual to help him fix the codeplug. Mr. Smith pointed out there were probably more instances like this out there where individuals were complaining about coverage problems, when their equipment was likely to blame.

e. MatSu Presentation. Mr. Smith stated he has also listened to the budget presentation given by the MatSu Emergency Services and at the end of it one of the assembly members had stated ALMR was a "billion-dollar boondoggle, the Federal government agencies had dropped out before it ever got going and it was 20-year-old technology when it was installed and it has never worked." Mr. Smith advised he immediately sent the individual an email and laid out some factual information, but the individual stated he would like to talk about it but wouldn't be available until sometime in May. Mr. Smith stated this particular person was heavily involved in ALMR back in 96 or 97, but he didn't remember him and his consternation with this scenario was that the other seven or eight assembly members who were present probably accepted this as gospel, regardless of the fact it had no merit. Mr. Smith advised the final thing that was said by this gentleman was that he'd been watching ALMR since it started and that the DOD had never carried through on the funding that they said they would. Mr. Smith stated he was prepared to tell this person, the DOD has funded a substantial portion of the System and the municipalities have never, ever contributed anything.

Mr. Smith also briefed the Fire Chief who was speaking that night said a number of things about ALMR not working. He stated he was scheduled to meet with the Fire Chief and the radio folks for the Borough next Thursday. Mr. Smith advised he would explain to them that he was not there to recruit them for ALMR, but to provide them with factual information about the System, so they didn't continue to perpetuate things that were absolutely not true.

Mr. Smith stated when he hears of these types of comments, he tries to react to them by providing as much factual information as possible, as he has done on a number of complaints.

Deputy Commissioner Comer asked when the meeting was, and Mr. Smith provided the date and time. Deputy Commissioner Comer offered to go along and Mr. Smith stated he was welcome to do so.

Ms. Linda Murphy stated there are municipalities that appreciate of the fact that they have not had to pay to utilize the System.

Colonel Hoang asked Mr. Smith if he had an opportunity to talk to Mr. George Hays, who was the previous ALCOM J6 and is now retired, but could certainly talk to the DOD's involvement. Mr. Smith stated he had talked to him this week and was to keep Mr. Hays posted on the progress in talking to the Borough folks. Colonel Hoang stated he would also email Mr. Hays.

f. Unication Pager. Mr. Smith advised that one of the complaints from volunteer fire department is the inability to page on the trunked VHF ALMR System. He stated this had been solved by Unification USA and they would be sending the OMO one of their new dual-band G5 P25 pagers, which can operate on 700 MHz and VHF. Mr. Smith noted he was working with Mr. John Lynn, SOA ETS, to get the pager programmed correctly once received and it would go to Kenai Fire Chief Jeff Tucker first for testing it on the System and then probably move it up to Fairbanks. He advised part of the job of the OMO is to keep track of changing technology that might be beneficial to System users.

g. WAVE System. Mr. Smith stated the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) was installing a WAVE System which would allow certain cell phones to connect to their Anchorage Wide Area Radio Network (AWARN).

Mr. Stormo advised it should be on line next month and if the MOA agreed to allow the SOA to utilize it that it might be a solution for getting connectivity out in the villages.

Mr. Smith noted the System Change Request he was gathering signatures on at the meeting was for approval of the WAVE to be connected to the ALMR/AWARN systems.

Colonel Hoang asked if there were any implications to the DIACAP in doing this and Mr. Smith advised him that the SMO and the Security Manager had completed a technical review and a security review and found no issues.

7. New Business.

a. System Accreditation. Mr. Woodall advised the group that the DOD services were currently funding the Defense Information Assurance Risk Management Framework (DIARMF). He noted program is the replacement for the Defense Information Assurance Recertification and Accreditation Process (DIACAP) for the recertification of the ALMR System, which is underway at this time. Mr. Woodall stated the package should get to Colonel Hoang, who is the Approval to Operate (ATO) authority, sometime in August and the current ATO expires in November.

b. Outages. Mr. Stormo briefed there had recently been a couple of significant outages. He stated the first was when the charger at the Tudor Road controller disconnected and put the entire Zone 1 into site trunking. Mr. Stormo advised he is working with the manufacturer and they have swapped out the control boards to see if this resolved the problem.

Mr. Stormo briefed the second outage occurred last week when the SOA microwave, the 7705 circuit interconnect and a laptop all went haywire while his technicians were working on the equipment at the Birch Hill site. He noted all of Zone 2 went down and they have swapped out the equipment and are engaged with Motorola® to try to figure out if it is the Motorola® equipment or the SOA circuits.

Ms. Murphy asked if this could have been a possible cyber attack.

Colonel Hoang replied that the DOD has to treat it as a real-world situation until they can disprove that it was one.

Mr. Del Smith noted that the Alaska State Trooper Region D dispatch in Fairbanks utilized their doomsday radios and didn't have any problems during the outage, but Fort Greely dispatch was the last to come back. The ALMR technician on site at Birch Hill "rolled" the core router from A to B, and Fort Greely came back on line.

c. SOA FY17 Budget Negotiations. Deputy Commissioner Comer noted the SOA is still involved in the budget negotiations. He stated the SOA Administration and the Governor are committed to ALMR and the Governor had stated it was "a must have."

d. Departure of Special Agent in Charge (SAC) Deirdre Fike. Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) Condo advised the council that today was SAC Fike's last day. He stated an interim SAC would be appointed until a permanent replacement for her was named.

8. Next Meeting. Deputy Commissioner Comer briefed the next meeting is scheduled for May 19, at 1:30 p.m. at 5900 E Tudor Road in the Enterprise Technology Services Conference Room.

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

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 2:28 p.m.



Bill Comer, Deputy Commissioner
State of Alaska, Department of Public Safety
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
SOA DOA, Deputy Commissioner John Boucher
SOA ETS, Director Jim Steele
SOA ETS, Mr. Scott Stormo
ALCOM/J64, Mr. Timothy Woodall
MOA, Mr. Trygve Erickson
OMO, Mr. Del Smith