



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



MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council

July XX, 2026

FROM: Department of Defense Co-Chair

SUBJECT: April 28, 2026 Meeting Minutes

TO: See Distribution

Executive Council Members:

Colonel Nicholas DeAngelis	Department of War (DoW) – ALCOM/J6 (via teleconference)
Director Bradley Wayland	Alaska Federal Executive Association (via Teleconference)
Deputy Chief of Administration Gina Burington	Municipality of Anchorage – Anchorage Police Department (via teleconference)
Assemblyman Rodney Dial	Alaska Municipal League - Ketchikan Gateway Borough (via teleconference)

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests:

Mr. Paul Fussey	ALMR Operations Manager
Mr. Nikalus Fahnstock	ALMR Systems Manager
Mr. David Reed	Information Systems Security Manager
Mr. John Rockwell	State of Alaska (SOA), Department of Public Safety
Mr. Scott Stormo	State of Alaska, Alaska Public Safety Communications Services
Mr. Timothy Woodall	ALCOM PM/COR
Ms. Mary Burnham	Operations Management Office
Ms. Rachel Pasag	Operations Management Office
Mr. Rikk Rambo	Law Enforcement Coordinator, Western States Information Network
Mr. Ryan Marlow	State of Alaska, Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

Mr. Robert Ragadio
Mr. Trygve Erikson
Mr. Casey Cook
MSgt. Preston Fernandez
Ms. Teresa Rose
Mr. Tim Thometz
Mr. Zack McRae
Mr. Brad Reed
Ms. Jessica Rabe

Motorola Solutions
Municipality of Anchorage
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
176th Wing
State of Alaska Division of Forestry
IcomAmerica
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
US Fish and Wildlife Services
National Park Service

1. Call to Order. Co-Chair Colonel Nicholas DeAngelis, Department of Defense – NORTHCOM/ALCOM J6, called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. Colonel DeAngelis requested that Ms. Mary Burnham read the roll, which she did, and she noted there was a quorum of Executive Council members present. Ms. Jessica Rabe, Mr. Casey Cook, Mr. Robert Ragadio, and Mr. Rikk Rambo joined the meeting after the roll was taken.

2. Opening Statements and Other Announcements. Colonel DeAngelis asked if there were any opening statements or other announcements.

Mr. Paul Fussey stated that Ms. Burnham will be leaving us at the end of May, so she is training her replacement, Ms. Rachel Pasag. He commented that they are working on the meeting and Ms. Pasag will be taking over for Ms. Burnham when she leaves at the end of May. Mr. Fussey noted that was the only announcement that he had.

Colonel DeAngelis asked if there were any other announcements, hearing nothing else, he stated the council would move on to the approval of the January meeting minutes.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes. Colonel DeAngelis asked if any of the other council members could please offer a motion by stating their name and a second by stating their name to approve the January meeting minutes.

Motion: Approve the January 15, 2026, Executive Council meeting minutes, as presented.

The motion was made by Director Bradley Wayland and seconded by Deputy Chief Gina Burington. Colonel DeAngelis asked if there were any objections or further discussion, hearing none, **the motion was passed.**

4. Old Business.

a) State Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB). **(TABLED)** Colonel DeAngelis asked Mr. John Rockwell if there are any new updates on the SIGB.

Mr. Rockwell briefed that he would like to turn his time over to Mr. Fussey, because he would like to address the nature of the SIGB and some of the possible responsibilities that the Executive Council probably should fulfill. He stated to Mr. Fussey that he was turning it over to him.

Mr. Fussey thanked Mr. Rockwell and addressed the council members. He briefed that he has been going through a lot of historical documents and updating things as he did. Mr. Fussey noted that Governor Walker created the SIGB, and that has been tabled for quite a while, But he will send the historical documents to all the couVHF, I members. He stated that through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Executive Council would be the go-to individuals for the SIGB, so they would work with the other agencies that are trying to put in the systems for VHF and they would be a de facto SIGB. Mr. Fussey commented that is what he has been reading and looking at, and talked with Mr. Timothy Woodall and Mr. Rockwell. He knows this is short notice for the meeting, which he apologized for, but he noted that he will get the historical documents out to all the Executive Council members, so they can look at that them for verification. Mr. Fussey thanked the Chair and Mr. Rockwell.

Mr. Rockwell stated that he appreciated Mr. Fussey for bringing that to the council's attention. He commented that the SIGB has been something that was a desire of Governor Walker. Mr. Rockwell noted that Governor Walker was able to create an Authorizing Official (AO), but then that was also deleted right away with the new governor. He stated that this item has been sitting on the agenda for quite a while, and this has been tabled only because they were hoping to reinvigorate it, but at this point, he does not see any reason in telling it to a new administration and possibly, depending on who it is, whether it is going to stick. Mr. Rockwell commented that he thinks it is appropriate to start talking about the role of the Executive Council as the default SIGB, and for those that might not know the Statewide Interoperability Governing Body is what SIGB stands for.

b) Long-term Cost Share Solution. **(TABLED)** Colonel DeAngelis asked Mr. Rockwell if there were any updates on this item.

Mr. Rockwell briefed that this has been one of those items that the state has been working towards, as far as how does the state continue to pay for the system. He noted that ALMR has cost-share agreements with the infrastructure owners that pay for part of the services, but overall, it has been very difficult through state budgets to continue paying for all of the support, that is the manpower, the equipment, the infrastructure costs themselves. Mr. Rockwell stated that if everyone looks at the towers as an example, where the state has quite a few towers that are aging, that need to have some plan of replacement, and the state has no budget for that or no systematic way that they can move forward with scheduling those towers to be replaced. He commented that it is like all the other infrastructure, the generators, the batteries, the shelters, and those kinds of things. Mr. Rockwell noted that in the past they have received capital items for that, and they have been fairly successful, but the way that the state budget is shrinking, it has become more and more difficult. He stated that a few years ago he started looking into other sources, for example, a fishing or hunting permit, or driver's license and take \$10 off the top; or the biggest use of the radio system is for public safety entities, so traffic citations or other items can have a surcharge on top of them. Mr. Rockwell commented that as he floated this up through command, nothing was approved, or given the green light to pursue, so that is why it has been something that is important to have on the agenda, but it has been tabled. He noted that he had talked to Mr. Woodall, and

Mr. Woodall stated the agenda item title is confusing as far as the terminology for long term cost sharing, when ALMR has infrastructure owners that already share the burden of quite a few costs. Mr. Rockwell stated that he wanted to make sure that he is not asking the infrastructure owners to put more cost on the table, but he would like to be able to have some method to be able to look at the overall cost of the system moving forward. He commented, however, that ALMR still does not have anything at this point, but it is something he would like to keep on the agenda, even if he says “no updates” in the future. Mr. Rockwell noted that everyone needs to look at the cost of the system moving forward and how funding is going to continue for the 135 different agencies that ALMR has on it, the over 32,000 devices that are being supported, and then moving on to even other technologies, like push-to-talk over the cell phone, Wi-Fi, etc.

c) Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA). Colonel DeAngelis asked Mr. Timothy Woodall if there were any updates to the Intergovernmental Support Agreement.

Mr. Woodall briefed that the Army and the State of Alaska have completed the Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA) between those two agencies, which is signed and completed. He noted that the Air Force is currently waiting for a signature, which has already been signed by the State of Alaska, for their IGSA with the State of Alaska. Mr. Woodall stated that they expect those two signatures, which are required on the Air Force side, to be completed here within the next couple of weeks. He commented that, at that point, the IGSA item that the council has listed as old business would be able to come off the old business. Mr. Woodall noted that part of the IGSA will drive to some other agreements that will go along, for instance, memorandums of understandings and memorandums of agreement, that will deal with how payment is made and other relationships that fall out of the IGSA that have to be worked, but that will be worked between the State of Alaska and the Department of War (DoW). He stated that he expects this item at the next Executive Council to be closed, and he will be happy to do that. Mr. Woodall commented that was all he had.

d) TDMA versus Non-TDMA Inventory. Colonel DeAngelis asked Mr. Paul Fussey for an update on this item.

Mr. Fussey briefed that he, Mr. Nikalus Fahnestock, and his team have been busy the last couple of months activating TDMA for talkgroups. He noted that the Fort Wainwright Motor Pool is now on TDMA. Mr. Andy Strait, who works with Mr. Fahnestock, worked with the Fort Wainwright Motor Pool and activated them, which he and Mr. Fahnestock have been monitoring. Mr. Fussey stated that they worked with Soldotna dispatch, MATCOM dispatch, state parks, national forest, and a lot of different agencies up to and including the troopers for the Kenai Peninsula and the MatSu Borough to activate and turn on TDMA for their talkgroups. He commented that there were some hiccups in the programming, so thanks to Mr. Scott Stormo and his team, which have been very proactive, went down and did a lot of programming for those radios in the Kenya Peninsula and the borough. Mr. Fussey noted that those talkgroups are turned on for TDMA and have been working really well, but a lot of work has been going on in the

background that the end users are not seeing. He stated that the team is still working on it, and they are still pushing forward with TDMA activation for talkgroups.

e) Fairbanks Rabinowitz Courthouse Bidirectional Antenna (BDA). Colonel DeAngelis asked Mr. Rockwell if he had any updates to this item.

Mr. Rockwell briefed that he would like to ask Mr. Stormo if there is any updates on the actual work and/or completion date for and while Mr. Stormo takes a moment to brief us on that, he would like to state that the Palmer Courthouse has also been approved, the purchase request has been issued, and the state has a vendor that would be starting that. He noted that the BDAs for both the Rabinowitz and Palmer courthouses are moving forward. Mr. Rockwell asked Mr. Stormo if he had any details as far as when they are looking at the completion of Fairbanks.

Mr. Stormo stated that he had not heard anything regarding completion, but the Rabinowitz equipment is in and they were going to be started in May on it.

Mr. Rockwell inquired that they will be starting in May and it will take a few months to complete the project.

Mr. Stormo responded that they should be done faster than that.

f) Motorola Contract. Colonel DeAngelis asked Mr. Stormo for an update on this topic.

Mr. Stormo briefed that the State of Alaska and DoW have two different vendors that are going to be presenting to the state and DoW interested parties this week. They will be trying to describe their proposal and an opportunity to expand it to a broader audience to see what types of questions or comments they might have that they can try to get answered. He noted that there is nothing more official to report at this time, but no major concerns, Mr. Stormo stated he thinks, as to where they are at the moment, other than what has been stated previously, is that it is going to cost a lot more, and not everybody has gotten the funding for that, but no new concerns to state at this point.

Mr. Woodall asked Mr. Stormo if he could mention the discussions on possibly extending the current contract.

Mr. Stormo noted that they have had that conversation briefly with the current provider about providing an option for an extension, the state initially brought it up for a six-month extension, but he has asked them about potential for a one-year extension, and the current provider is going go back and talk to their organization to see if they could support a one year extension. He stated that, In part, the idea behind that is the state would still pursue getting this contract finalized and awarded, it just would be starting at a point in the future, 6 or 12 months out. This will provide the buildpairs infrastructure owners more time to have this as a definitive cost and then come up with those funds for that. Mr. Stormo commented that they do not know if the provider will do an extension,

and they do not know for a fact if the extension would be any different pricing than what they currently have.

Mr. Rockwell stated that he would like to add that Mr. Stormo has been given a task to look at, in great detail, all services that the vendor provides and justify each service to make sure that it is something that is a mandatory need versus a really nice option to have. He commented that as they move forward the anticipation of a higher cost due to the fact that the state and DoW are at the end of a 10-year contract that had no escalation clause built into it. They anticipate that the contract could be significantly higher for like-to-like services. Mr. Rockwell noted that he just wanted to let everybody know that this is not something that they are just rubber stamping, taking lightly, moving forward, but it is something that they are really doing a deep dive on all services that are required. He stated that he wanted to thank Mr. Stormo in this forum of the due diligence that he is performing on this as well as Mr. Woodall.

Colonel DeAngelis asked if anyone had any questions or comments on any of the Old Business items, hearing none, he stated that completed Old Business.

5. User Council Update.

Colonel DeAngelis asked Mr. Rockwell to please update the members on the User Council.

Mr. Rockwell briefed that the User Council has been meeting on a monthly basis, and at this point, as far as the number of User Council members, they are minus one, which is the alternate for Southeast. He noted that the council has been talking a lot about the move to TDMA, and the radio requirements for that move. Mr. Rockwell stated that ALMR has done an exceptional job over the past, well, many, many years, but if he could just highlight a couple of tasks that they have been working on over the past year. This includes the upgrade and completion of the radio infrastructure, which was a \$24 million lifecycle refresh; upgrading of the generated power systems, which they replaced he thinks the last non-powered unit that was on battery and generator only; they have been able to establish over-the-air programming for the newer technology of radios. as well as SmartConnect; they have replaced infrastructure on Heney Ridge; they have been working on removing and replacing shelters that are needed: and so they have just been doing an extremely great job and this has been a difficult weather year. He commented that the team has been doing all this infrastructure work through all these weather events to repair the critical infrastructure to restore the essential public safety services.

Colonel DeAngelis asked if there were any questions for Mr. Rockwell at this point.

6. Operations Management Office.

Colonel DeAngelis asked Mr. Fussey to please provide the Operations Management Office (OMO) update.

- a) Training and Outreach. Mr. Fussey briefed that Mr. Dan Nelson has created a new training video on APX SmartConnect, and he also created one for the new users, introducing them to the YouTube channel and website. He noted that all the ALMR videos have been on the ALMR website, but what has been done is that when someone looks at the ALMR training section on the website, the videos that they can see on the ALMR website have been put on to the ALMR YouTube channel. Mr. Fussey stated that he understands that the DoW individuals are not able to access this on their computers, but the OMO team is trying to get the videos out to more members and more of a greater audience, so anyone can either watch it on the ALMR website or they can just click on the video image and that will take you right to the YouTube channel. He commented that all the ALMR training videos now are on YouTube, and that way the team can see how many more views and stuff like that on there. Mr. Fussey noted that a lot of work went into that, but the team is getting more videos out there. He stated that the OMO was seeing in regard to the website that some of the members, were having difficulty finding where the policies and procedures are and/or where the approved radio systems are, so the newest video, assists the new user to the system through the website. Mr. Fussey asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Fussey noted that Ms. Burnham has completed sending out the reminder emails to all the member agencies to confirm their point of contact information is still correct. He stated that a lot of the agencies in the past year had their point of contact either move on or change, so she has been diligently updating all of that. Mr. Fussey commented that when the OMO starts sending out the ALMR membership agreements, this ensures that they are sending them out to the right people and making sure that the team gets them back in a timely manner.

Mr. Fussey stated that Ms. Burnham has also completed the second draft of the cost share and airtime calculations, so that is a lot of time and thanks to Mr. Fahnestock and his team for getting that information over to her so that she could start calculating all that.

Mr. Fussey commented that on April 22nd, Ms. Burnham participated in the Department of Health statewide communications exercise. He noted that what it entailed was that the Department of Health wanted a lot of the agencies in the Western villages, South Central, and Southeast to work on was if there is a disaster, how do the groups communicate with each other. Mr. Fussey stated that he, unfortunately, was at another meeting, and he could not participate, so Ms. Burnham sat in for ALMR. They worked on ham radios, sat phones, ALMR, and other types of emergency communications. He commented that it was a really good exercise for statewide agencies, for ALMR, and the Department of Health.

Mr. Fussey briefed that from March 29th to April 3rd there was a statewide emergency management conference that he attended. He noted that he met with several of the ALMR members who were there and discussed with them any issues with their TDMA radio upgrades, so it was a really good networking

opportunity and also sitting in through the emergency management programs there.

Mr. Fussey noted that he and Mr. Daniel Woody from Mr. Stormo's team were invited to do an ALMR training session on TDMA and location of push-to-talk that was set up by several agencies over at University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). He stated that they gave a presentation and had a really good Q&A session with a lot of questions on TDMA and the location push-to-talk, how that worked, and which radios and which models are affected by that.

Mr. Fussey stated that he has been sitting through the daily Emergency Operation River Watch meetings to make sure there is no potential flooding near any of the ALMR towers. He commented that this year, they are predicting a very bad breakup due to the thickness of the ice and the extreme cold the areas had over the year. Mr. Fussey noted that they are predicting a lot of flooding, possibly in the Yukon Delta area, the Fairbanks area, and the Glenallen area, so he has been monitoring that. They are predicting a catastrophic breakout, which means areas may have a lot of ice dams and a lot of ice jams compared to just a regular melt out. He stated that he will keep the board and the user council updated on whether there are any issues with any ALMR towers.

Mr. Fussey commented that he conducted the monthly offsite backup inspections, and the reports were filed with no discrepancies found.

Mr. Fussey briefed that the INTERFACE 2026 conference took place on April 22nd in Anchorage, and this tied him up so he could not attend the Department of Health exercise. He noted that he and Mr. David Reed, the security manager, attended. Mr. Fussey stated that he was asked to take part in a panel to discuss ALMR operations during and after natural disasters. He commented that they had approximately about 40 to 45 people in attendance, and he sat on the panel with a member from the Association of Village Council Chiefs, the Alaska Railroad, and Emergency Operations Center. Mr. Fussey noted that they had a good Q&A session and discussions on how ALMR worked after natural disasters. He stated that he appreciated the fact that he was invited to sit on that panel and he received good feedback afterward. Mr. Fussey asked if anyone had any questions about any of the training and outreach before he went to the project status updates, hearing none, he continued.

- b) Project Status Update. Mr. Fussey briefed that he talked a little bit earlier about this topic, but the activation of TDMA for the troopers in the MatSu Borough and Kenai Peninsula is completed, and the Fort Wainwright Motor Pool.

Mr. Fussey noted that next week, May 4th, Motorola and Mr. Reed will be in Juneau to complete their new dispatch console installs. He stated that this has been an ongoing project to make sure they meet all the DoW requirements for the project. Mr. Fussey commented that the group had another meeting on Friday with Motorola to finalize things, but hopefully that will all be done by next week and

Juneau will have their new dispatch center all up and running. He noted that those are the only two main things that he had for project status updates.

- c) March System Metrics. Mr. Fussey briefed that the monthly group of individual calls ALMR had 1,874,512; for the monthly push-to-talks, it was almost identical to 2022 at 2,835,084; and the busies were 308, which is a very, very small number compared to the push-to-talk and the calls, so he said thank you to Mr. Stormo and his team for the microwave back haul and Mr. Fahnestock and his team and their PMIs on the ALMR towers.

Mr. Fussey noted that the sites below three nines were nine, so the ALCAN Electric at Trims had a damaged cable they fixed; Peger Road, ALMR equipment has moved to a new shelter; Henny Range, they worked on a microwave; Haines and Skagway there were some microwave issues; then Alcantra, New Knik, and Seward, Mr. Fahnestock's team did preventative maintenance inspections (PMIs); and then at Clear they replaced the cable and isolator.

Mr. Fussey stated that for the subscriber counts by zones, the Anchorage Wide Area Radio Network (AWARN), is only in zone 4, which is why they are under the Alaska Municipal League (AML) and has 6,308 showing up there. He commented that if the group looks at the subscriber counts per month, as a friendly reminder to the board, ALMR is maxed out at 33,000 licenses. The OMO and Mr. Fahnestock and his team has been very proactive with the agencies to let them know that if they have subscriber units that they are not using, or old FDMA radios, to turn in a subscriber request. Mr Fussey noted that Mr. Fahnestock and his team have been working diligently to remove those radios off the system. He stated that a couple of months ago, ALMR was over 33,000 and are now down to 31,875, so they are getting a little bit more breathing room. Mr. Fussey commented, however, that some of the agencies he has talked to here in the past month have some radios sitting in boxes that they are going to work on removing, so that number will drop down more. He noted that he just wanted to let the council know that there are a lot of radios out there that are not being used, older ones that can be removed from the system, and help ALMR out with the licensing. Mr. Fussey asked if there were any questions on any of the metrics from the members or anything that any member would like him to repeat or go over again, hearing none, he continued to the "Other" item.

- d) Other. Mr. Fussey briefed that ALMR would like to welcome Ms. Rachel Pasag, the new document specialist, and she is training with Ms. Burnham.

Mr. Fussey noted that the April newsletter was completed and sent out on April 15th, which went out as a hard copy to all the state and federal legislatures. He stated that Ms. Burnham put that out on the ALMR website and every newsletter can be seen on the website. Mr. Fussey commented that was all he had for his report, pending any questions.

7. New Business.

Colonel DeAngelis moved to New Business and stated that he believed Mr. Woodall has something for the group.

Mr. Rockwell briefed that Mr. Stormo had to leave the room briefly. He noted that there was an update that appears that as his tower crew was out at Auke Lake, which is down by Juneau, a tower crew was tensioning the tower and the tower itself has fallen. Mr. Rockwell stated that he does not have any pictures, since this is right off the press, however, he just wanted to let the Executive Council know that this happened. He commented that he is sure the state will be working on a remediation strategy shortly for that, but he cannot tell the group what is the impact of that. Mr. Rockwell noted that Mr. Stormo may know off the top of his head what would be impacted, because Mr. Rockwell knows the state has a lot of towers that actually cover each other to have a continuous operations.

Mr. Stormo briefed that the microwave ring is definitely broken with that site being down and there will be significant loss of coverage that that site was doing. He noted that there might be some overlap from Saddle Mountain or Lena Point, but there definitely will be some lack of coverage. Mr. Stormo stated that he does not know if there were any other services happening out of that tower, like Juneau may have had an antenna on there too. He commented that it sounds like the shelter is fine, and nobody was hurt. Mr. Stormo noted that the tower crew was plumbing in tension with the tower, and he does not know what happened, but the tower fell.

Mr. Rockwell thanked Mr. Stormo and stated that was all he had.

8. Next Meeting. Colonel DeAngelis advised the next meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2026, at 1:30 pm. Please check your calendars and let Ms. Pasag know if there are any conflicts.

Colonel DeAngelis inquired if there was anything else anyone would like to offer at this time, nothing was heard.

9. Adjourn Meeting. Colonel DeAngelis stated that he would accept a motion and then a second from any of the council members to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Adjourn April 28, 2026, meeting of the ALMR Executive Council.

The motion was made by Assemblyman Rodney Dial and seconded by Director Bradley Wayland. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

Colonel DeAngelis thanked everyone and stated that the meeting was adjourned, and that he would see everyone at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 am.

Colonel DeAngelis
USNORTHCOM/ALCOM J6
ALMR Executive Council

Distribution:

USNORTHCOM/ALCOM J6, Colonel Nicholas DeAngelis
SOA/DPS, Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan
AFEA, Director Bradley Wayland
MOA, Deputy Chief of Administration, Gina Burington
AML, Assemblyman Rodney Dial, Ketchikan Gateway Borough
ALCOM/J64, Mr. Timothy Woodall
ALMR OMO, Mr. Paul Fussey
ALMR SMO, Mr. Nikalus Fahnestock
ISSM/Security Manager, Mr. David Reed
SOA DPSCS, Mr. Scott Stormo
SOA SWIC, User Council Chair, Mr. John Rockwell
User Council Vice-Chair, Tammy Goggia-Cockrell
FBI, Ms. Sandy Puckett
BLM, Mr. Eli Barry-Garland