



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



Memorandum for ALMR Executive Council

June 5, 2007

FROM: DOD Co-Chair

SUBJECT: May 3, 2007 ALMR Executive Council Meeting Minutes

TO: See Distribution

Executive Council Members Present:

Commissioner Walt Monegan	State of Alaska, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Hans Neidig	DOI, Special Asst to the Secretary for Alaska
Colonel Kristine Clifton	Alaskan Command
Ms. Heather Handyside	Alaska Municipal League

ALMR Project Team Members and Guests Present:

Ms. Rachael Petro	Deputy Commissioner, SOA DOA
Mr. Tim Woodall	DOD Project Manager
Mr. Del Smith	Operations Manager
Mr. Rich Leber	Technical Advisor to the Operations Manager
Chief Brad Johnson (telecom)	Vice Chair, User Council
Mr. Jim Robinson	DOD Project Team
Mr. Joe Quickel	DOD Project Team
Ms. Ruthi Muffler	DOD Project Team
Ms. Sherry Shafer	DOD Project Team

1. **Call to order.** Colonel Clifton called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.
2. **Opening Statements and Other Announcements.** None.
3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (November 30, 2006).** Ms. Handyside referenced the discussion concerning ALMR encryption by the Alaska State Troopers. She requested her comments voicing her strong concerns be included. The following comments were added to Section 5b(4)(d):

Ms. Handyside expressed strong concerns about encryption issues on behalf of emergency medical service agencies and volunteer fire

departments across the state. Smaller communities seem to be at a particular disadvantage in an encrypted environment. Ms. Handyside agreed that a well-conceived tactical interoperable communications plan could provide a possible, if cumbersome, solution to the encryption issue. However, she believes that response is far more effective when accomplished through systems that are used daily. Ms. Handyside cautioned the group not to let encryption be implemented in a manner that would defeat the interoperability of the overall system. Ms. Handyside indicated she would recommend communicating in an unencrypted environment to the new commissioner.

Motion made to approve the minutes, as amended.

For the Executive Council, the motion was made by Ms. Handyside and seconded by Colonel Clifton. **The motion was carried and approved.**

4. ALMR Project Status.

a. PMO DOD. Mr. Woodall briefed.

Mr. Woodall explained the program status report. Mr. Woodall reviewed the status of DOD contract implementation activities as follows:

- 1) Operating System 7.1 upgrade, router, and site controller issues have been resolved and new console implementation will begin in June 2007.
- 2) Motobridge™ (gateway) System Design & System Analysis (SD/SA). The SD/SA has been completed along with a Concept of Operations for Motobridge™ operations. Currently pending is the contracting and implementation of the Motobridge™ proposals. DOD is working one of the proposals which will go to contracting on May 4. SOA is working the other two proposals; their status is unknown.
- 3) Training. There are currently classes occurring approximately every other week. MOTOMESH® classes were completed this week with very positive feedback. Upcoming training includes system infrastructure training, console training, and Motobridge® training. Mr. Woodall explained that the cost of training for other federal, State and local agencies are significantly reduced because the DOD contract brings the instructor into State to train, vice having to send personnel to Chicago for the training. Currently the DOD, federal non-DOD and local government agencies have taken advantage of these training opportunities.
- 4) Site Infrastructure Change. The Delta site was relocated to Fort Greely with no interruption of service. The Transportable ALMR system was deployed to

fill the coverage gap and it demonstrated its ability to perform in the event of a significant site outage. Mr. Woodall asked the Executive Council to approve the move although it had already been executed. Contracting and budget execution required the move to occur before the change management process could be finalized.

- 5) MOTOMESH™ implementation has been completed and final Field Acceptance Testing will be executed next month.
- 6) In-Building Coverage. DOD critical infrastructure, identified as needing a solution to ensure in-building coverage, is being implemented. Mr. Woodall explained the need for in-building solutions, and advised the Executive Council that the User Council was working to identify critical infrastructure that requires in-building coverage.

Mr. Woodall called attention to the Risk Management Report, and a short discussion was held concerning frequency conflicts and the impact to operations. Ms. Handyside requested a more detailed presentation during the next meeting. Colonel Clifton asked that the presentation include specific impacts to users and prioritize the sites based on operational use and operational impact. Colonel Clifton reminded the members of the approved motion by the cooperative partnership requesting a State transition strategy.

Ms. Handyside asked if there would be any impact to users once the State turns off their legacy LMR system. Mr. Woodall explained that by law, the wideband system must be turned off NLT January 1, 2012. The Operations Management Office will gather information on potential impacts

Commissioner Monegan referenced the Fire Station 12 interference issue with the garage doors. He inquired if the cost to reconcile this issue was known. He also stated that the ALMR Operations Management Office should make this kind information widely available to the user community in an effort to reduce or eliminate the potential of such issues surfacing again.

Mr. Woodall advised that the State of Alaska and Municipality were looking into probable solutions to the interference. The possibility of installing filters to resolve the issue with the garage door interference was at the top of the list. Mr. Woodall noted that the need to ensure members were informed was addressed by the Operations Manager during his interaction with the ALMR User Council.

- b. **PMO SOA.** PMO not present. No report given.
- c. **PMO MOA.** Ms. Handyside provided the following update.

- 1) The new Anchorage Wide Area Radio Network (AWARN) tower for Chugiak Fire is under construction.
- 2) SOA is negotiating a joint venture with the Matanuska-Susitna (MatSu) Borough and Municipal Light and Power (ML&P) for a 180-foot tower along the Knik Goose Bay road to provide AWARN coverage to the Birchwood and Eklutna areas.
- 3) The \$3.5M from the Municipal Bond will bring total project funding to date to \$14.46M. Approximately \$7.5M more will be required to complete AWARN.
- 4) At a December 2006 meeting, it was briefed that coverage is deficient for APD in north Anchorage, as well as Muldoon, Chugiak and Eagle River. Coverage for the AFD is deficient in south Anchorage, Muldoon, Chugiak and Eagle River.
- 5) The MOA proposed to use \$3.5M of the approved bond money to purchase repeaters at Blueberry Hill/Eagle River Valley, Eklutna Water Treatment Plant, Girdwood/Seven Glaciers, Windy Point near Hope, Chugiach Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) and the Anchorage Regional Landfill.

5. Old Business.

a. Action Items Recommended as Closed. None.

b. Actions Items Still Open.

- 1) ALMR Training Strategy. The Joint Project Office, in coordination with the ALMR User Council, was asked to develop an ALMR training strategy and a training roadmap, to include communications exercises. The Executive Council requires a tool to ensure Team Alaska is prepared to operate ALMR on a day-to-day basis and is poised to conduct a full operational assessment during Alaska Shield/Northern Edge 2007 (AS/NE07). **Discussion:** Commissioner Monegan asked if the State PM was also looking for training opportunities/events with state agencies. Mr. Woodall stated he has not received inputs from the State PM or local government representative to include in the training roadmap. As a result, the document is not ready for presentation to the Executive Council.
- 2) ALMR Cooperative Agreement. Colonel Clifton withdrew the motion presented in the agenda and deferred the motion to a future date in order to give the State's new administration time to thoroughly review and coordinate the agreement. Colonel Clifton stated she would appreciate State comments by early June because the DoD Legal Advisor, familiar with the ALMR Cooperative Agreement, departs Alaska in late June.

- 3) Service Level Agreement. The SLA was approved during the November 30, 2006 Executive Council meeting as an attachment to the Cooperative Agreement. After some discussion it was determined that the SLA can stand-alone and may be signed whether the Cooperative Agreement is finalized or not. The DOD PMO Team will prepare the SLA for distribution and final signature.

c. Operations Management Office (OMO) Update.

- 1) Mr. Del Smith briefed the group on his outreach trip to Juneau to talk to the Juneau EMS and ACEMS. He stated a questionnaire would be sent to provide an assessment of the current situation. Mr. Smith also stated he is working with Tok EMS to assess their situation/requirements.
- 2) Mr. Smith is working closely with the Fairbanks PD concerning issues they are experiencing with EF Johnson radios (affiliation time). He submitted a letter to EF Johnson's Corporate Customer Service office. An EF Johnson technician was dispatched to Fairbanks and is working with the Fairbanks PD to try to resolve the issues. The OMO is looking at the possibility of providing loaner radios to Fairbanks PD, and Mr. John Madden, DMVA, is looking into the possibility of providing cached radios from the Army Guard inventory to assist, as well.
- 3) Mr. Smith suggested the User Council establish a certification standard for subscriber radios wishing to come on ALMR network. Kenwood is sending up five radios to be used for two weeks, and will then send up an assessment team to review the findings on the radios' performance. Mr. Smith is reaching out to all P-25 vendors to gain support to do similar tests with their products. Several vendors have done so in the past: MACOM, Thalos, Motorola, and Kenwood. Mr. Smith will meet with Ms. Petro and discuss the issue further.
- 4) Mr. Smith noted the OMO is initiating a document review process and has established a Sharepoint account to facilitate access and review. The link will be sent out in the near future.

d. User Council Update. Chief Brad Johnson briefed the following:

- 1) Mr. Casey Borg, ALMR System Manager, presented a high-level briefing to the User Council on Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance Support.
- 2) With few exceptions, all Public Safety entities are now on ALMR. Various problems with the performance of EF Johnson radios have been reported over a period of time. A company engineer came to Fairbanks but has been unable to resolve the reported problems. A DoD-sponsored engineering team, supporting the ALMR operational assessment during AS/NE07, will evaluate

the reported problems. Chief Johnson further stated he had met with Mr. Madden, Ms. Handyside, and Dr. Jones (State PM) to discuss an emergency replacement of the radios if the issues remain unresolved.

- 3) At the User Council meeting, Major Leveque stated the User Council needs to take a greater role in the build out of the current infrastructure and the State Interoperability Executive Committee should play a key role, as well. Major Leveque noted Mr. Madden is spearheading the Working Group developing a statewide interoperability plan which must be completed by November. The driving force is the approval of a grant of which Alaska will get a portion.

6. Executive Council Focus Areas. Colonel Clifton asked everyone to review the draft Executive Council focus areas by the next meeting and identify "champions" to help move the strategic goal to completion. She also asked the council members to recommend any changes or additions. Ms. Handyside stated she was willing to champion issues 6, 7 and 9 and would report back at the next meeting with comments.

7. New Business. SOA Deputy Commissioner Petro provided an update on State Legislative activity related to capital and general fund budget requests for ALMR. Mr. Smith, Operations Manager, asked about the \$10M that was in the Governor's amendment to the Capital Budget. Ms. Petro identified the \$10M being in the Finance Committee Substitute, and did not see any issues with its pending conference meeting approval. Colonel Clifton asked if the \$10M was specifically for ALMR. Ms. Petro stated she believed that it was.

8. Summary of Meeting Action Items.

- a. The Operations Management Office will gather information, produce a report for the next Executive Council meeting, and monitor mission impact concerning spectrum conflicts.
- b. SOA and local government representatives to provide their training opportunities input to the DOD Project Manager to finalize the ALMR training plan for presentation to the Executive Council.
- c. Mr. Woodall to develop a statement of work for a Total Cost of Ownership Study.
- d. Mr. Woodall to provide copies of past lessons learned reports to Ms. Petro.
- e. Present AS/NE '07 lessons learned to the Executive Council at the next meeting.

9. Next Meeting. Mr. Neidig requested a time change for the next meeting due to a schedule conflict. The next meeting is July 26, 2007, 1:30 p.m. at 5700 E. Tudor Road at the Alaska State Trooper facility main conference room.

10. Adjourn Meeting. Colonel Clifton made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Ms. Handyside. **The motion passed unanimously.** Without further discussion, the Executive Council Meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Kristine M. Clifton

KRISTINE M. CLIFTON, Colonel, USAF
Department of Defense, Executive Co-Chair
ALMR Executive Council

Distribution:

SOA DPS, Commissioner Walt Monegan
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AML, Ms. Heather Handyside
MOA, Mr. Trygve Erickson
ALCOM/J64, Mr. Timothy Woodall
SOA DOA, Mr. Jim Koehler
User Council Chair, Major Matthew Leveque