



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



**MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council**

**January 18, 2018**

**FROM: SOA Co-Chair**

**SUBJECT: October 19, 2017, Meeting Minutes**

**TO: See Distribution**

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**Executive Council Members Present:**

Deputy Commissioner Bill Comer	State of Alaska – Department of Public Safety
Colonel Timothy Maxwell	Department of Defense (DOD) – Alaskan Command (ALCOM)/J6
Mr. Bill Kaiser (for ASAC Antony Jung)	Alaska Federal Executive Association - Federal Bureau of Investigation (via teleconference)

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

Mr. Ocie Adams	User Council Chair (via teleconference)
Mr. Scott Stormo	SATS/ALMR Manager (via teleconference)
Mr. Del Smith	Operations Manager
Mr. Tim Woodall	DOD ALMR Program Manager
Mr. Jim Nicholl	Motorola Solutions
Mr. John Rockwell	Department of Public Safety
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 3:07 p.m. and the roll call was read.

**2. Opening Statements and Other Announcements.**

Colonel Timothy Maxwell thanked everyone for moving the meeting to accommodate his schedule conflict.

**3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.** Deputy Commissioner Comer asked the if everyone had an opportunity to review the August meeting minutes and requested a motion for their approval, if there were no changes.

**Motion: Approve the August 17 Executive Council meeting minutes, as written.**

The motion was made by Colonel Timothy Maxwell, and seconded by Deputy Commissioner Comer. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

**4. Old Business.**

a. Revenue Generation. Mr. John Rockwell advised there was nothing new on this. He briefed there had been discussion on license plate fees and a 9-1-1 surcharge but nothing had stuck.

Deputy Commissioner Comer stated he didn't believe anything had been thrown out at this point either.

Mr. Scott Stormo stated he had not heard anything new on this.

b. Cooperative Agreement Update. Mr. Timothy Woodall advised the document had been signed by Lieutenant General Wilsbach and had been given to Mr. Del Smith today.

Mr. Smith stated he would get it over to the Alaska Federal Executive Association (AFEA) to be signed.

Deputy Commissioner Comer stated this item could now be **CLOSED**.

c. Telephone Interconnect for the Transportable Communications System. Mr. Woodall stated the Cooperative Agreement formed basis for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to cover this requirement, and he would have it done by the next meeting.

d. System Upgrade Assistance (SUA) and Equipment End of Life (EOL). Mr. Woodall briefed the Department of Defense (DOD) would be contracting through the State of Alaska (SOA) for this.

Mr. Stormo noted it had been penciled in for September of next year on the Motorola schedule, but that the State had not gotten the amendment done yet.

e. MotoBridge® System. Mr. Woodall advised the DOD had validated their assets with the services and concurred with the User Council (UC) recommendation letter. He

stated they identified what they did and did not want updated and had provided the list to Mr. Mike Hawkins at Motorola for a refresh.

Mr. Woodall briefed that he had a conversation with 673<sup>rd</sup> Contracting and the 673<sup>rd</sup> Financial Management folks trying to come up with a better solution to execute contracts because the Defense Finance and Accounting System (DFAS) is a slow, manual process. He stated they believed there is a process to pay the State all the dollars at the beginning of the State's fiscal year, then the State would provide them an invoice. Mr. Woodall stated they were looking at how this can be done and hoped this would work for the Wostmann/Operations Management Office (OMO) contract, as well. He noted the Legal Office would be looking at it with Contracting.

Mr. Jim Nicholl, Motorola Solutions, asked if the DOD was going to try to do this with the System upgrade and Mr. Woodall stated "yes."

Mr. Stormo advised the upgrade portion could affect the Federal receipt authority, so that may not work.

Mr. Woodall stated they would have to look at that but would get it figured out on the DOD side then pass it to the State to look at. He advised if they did a specific Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that outlines that and identifies the amount and purpose of the funds, they might be able to do it.

Mr. Smith read the proposed motion regarding the User Council recommendation on the MotoBridge<sup>®</sup> system.

Deputy Commissioner Comer asked Mr. Ocie Adams to speak to the motion.

Mr. Adams stated the decision was based on the fact that some MotoBridge<sup>®</sup> components are not being used and some are being used other than originally attended. He noted those components being used should remain active and it was deemed a legitimate action to remove the others.

Deputy Commissioner Comer stated his concern about not knowing the narrative on the MotoBridge<sup>®</sup> and that he was worried about some functionality being lost within ALMR. He emphasized he needed the rest of the narrative on this issue.

Mr. Woodall explained the MotoBridge<sup>®</sup> ownership and how the system was connected to the State information technology (IT) network. He advised for the DOD, it was primarily used on the US Army-Alaska (USARAK) ranges and their Fire Department, at the Rescue Coordination Center (RCC) and in the transportables. Mr. Woodall noted that the DOD had locations around the State, as well, but at the majority of those the MotoBridge<sup>®</sup> was not used.

Colonel Maxwell asked how many components were they talking about and Mr. Woodall stated there were approximately 35 for the State and 15 for the DOD and the DOD was

reducing their number down to 12. Mr. Woodall explained that Mr. John Lynn, Enterprise Technology Services (ETS), was working on the State's portion.

He reiterated he needed the rest of the narrative on this issue – how much it costs and who is using it.

Mr. Smith stated there were a number of State components connected to Emergency Medical Service (EMS) repeaters.

Mr. Woodall explained the maintenance for it was already in the contract, but in order to obtain the cost to upgrade it, the details would have to be provided to Motorola so they could provide a cost estimate, and DOD had already provided their requirements. He noted the DOD would probably elect to update regardless of what the State does, and may have to move their portion of the MotoBridge® from the SOA network if the State does not update.

Mr. Stormo stated when he returned he could get with Deputy Commissioner Comer and go over the assets. He noted it was basically the computers that were going to be removed.

The motion was reintroduced at this time.

**Motion: Accept the User Council recommendation to remove workstation gateway units and/or radio gateway units that are not being utilized and update the remaining MotoBridge® components to current Motorola hardware and software releases.**

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

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

Mr. Ocie Adams noted he had nothing further to add.

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

a. Annual User Council Election. Mr. Smith advised the nomination process for the annual User Council election of the Chair and Vice Chair was underway.

b. Fourth Quarter Master Site Rollover. Mr. Smith briefed the Zone 1, Zone 2, and Zone 4 quarterly rollover was scheduled for the week of October 23 – 27 and he had been sending out notices every week and it was also in the System Management Office (SMO) Daily Report. He stated the zones would be done on October 25 and 26 at approximately 5 a.m. and it should take about 35 seconds to complete and no issues were expected.

c. FY19 OMO/SMO Budget. Mr. Smith stated the budget was approved by Executive Council with the final vote via email on September 22 and then forwarded to Mr. Stormo to provide to the SOA Department of Administration (DOA) on September 25.

d. September System metrics. Mr. Smith advised there 1,047,225 group calls and within those calls were 1,940,083 push to talks. He stated busies were declining as anticipated and were down from 542 in August to 408 in September.

Deputy Commissioner Comer noted these types of metrics makes it so much easier to explain and it is the kind of data that you can talk to those people who are not radio proficient and they will understand and he appreciated it.

## **7. New Business.**

a. FirstNet. Mr. Woodall advised there is a lot of talk about FirstNet and ALMR potentially converging in five to eight years and land mobile radio (LMR) is going away. He stated FirstNet is not a system that is currently open to Federal agencies such as DOD, and from a partnership perspective, he asked that the Executive Council seriously consider looking at the FirstNet and ALMR lifecycle convergence timeline.

Mr. Woodall noted if the State's intention is to move to FirstNet, the DOD needs about five years of programming time to look for a new system capability and migration away from a shared system capability to an independent infrastructure and backbone from what we have now. He explained the DOD currently benefits from the State of Alaska Telecommunications System (SATS) and there is a lot of additional expense and engineering associated with that, and he wouldn't want to get down to a year or two away and have to inform his new boss that the DOD needs to build a new system. Mr. Woodall briefed programmatically, they need to start five years out and get funds lined up.

Mr. Woodall also queried was there an intention to include Federal agencies for a total level of interoperability like we have now. If there were a loss of interoperability with Federal agencies excluded from FirstNet, they could find themselves in a crisis and need to do the proper, prudent planning and projection.

Mr. Woodall asked this issue become part of the continuing business and put together subcommittees to speak to the experts and come up with a plan, so we can do the right future projection.

Deputy Commissioner Comer added within the last few days, he, Mr. John Rockwell and Mr. Leon Morgan had a couple conversations and had been spurred on by members of the public safety community to re-engage the State's administration on an executive order or possibly some Legislative action to go forward so before we form any committees, he would like it put on the January agenda for further discussion.

Mr. Smith stated, as he understood it FirstNet is a subscription and asked could a DOD agency subscribe to it, and Mr. Woodall stated he didn't know, from a programmatic standpoint, if DOD played in FirstNet at all.

Mr. Rockwell advised they do, but the part DOD was excluded from was the opt-in/opt-out question because Congress put the onus on the Governor to opt in or opt out for that state, although he could consult with their DOD partner. He pointed out DOD is not being excluded from Public Safety Band 14 and when they start rolling the licenses out, it will be offered to DOD.

Mr. Woodall briefed the DOD would still need to know that to have the dollars together for the migration and would still want that process to begin five years out. He felt the Executive Council, from a cooperative association, should still commission a group to work together to define the lifecycle and migration process.

Deputy Commissioner Comer agreed it was prudent to put this on the radar now and makes a lot of sense.

Mr. Rockwell added, for everyone's information, Governor Walker had signed the opt-in letter on August 24 and put out a press release on August 30. He stated this is a first step in the process. Additionally, he noted he had been working with Deputy Commissioner Comer and Mr. Morgan on the governance and planning process on the convergence technology. Mr. Rockwell advised that they had the opportunity, through the State and Local Implementation Grant (SLIG), Alaska has the opportunity to apply for up to half a million dollars, of which the application would include the planning activities to look at the migration from LMR to FirstNet – where it fits and where the gaps are, where operational parts and pieces match together.

Mr. Nicholl advised Motorola is a partner in FirstNet with AT&T and they don't see it as a replacement for LMR in the near future.

b. Cost Share. Mr. Bill Kaizer asked if there was any update on the fixed cost share amount proposal.

Mr. Stormo advised there was a reorganization occurring in the DOA Chief Information Officer (CIO) organization over the last month or so, and it was in the hands of those above him. He stated he would follow up and try to get a "yay/nay" the first week of November.

Mr. Kaizer reminded this would include the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), US Marshalls and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Deputy Commissioner Comer also advised Mr. Stormo he had been asked some significant questions regarding the DOA budget request.

**8. Next Meeting.** Deputy Commissioner Comer advised the group that the next meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2018, 1:30 p.m. at the Enterprise Technology

Services Conference Room, 5900 E Tudor Road. He stated this was the opening day of the Legislative session and he may be in Juneau and would call in, otherwise he would attend as normal and go down the following week.

The motion to adjourn was made by Colonel Maxwell and seconded by Deputy Commission Comer. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.



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

**Distribution:**

SOA/DPS, Deputy Commissioner Bill Comer  
USNORTHCOM ALCOM J6, Colonel Timothy Maxwell  
FBI, ASAC Tony Jung  
MOA, Captain Dave Koch  
AML, Ms. Linda Murphy  
SOA DOA, Mr. Chris White  
SOA DOA, Mr. Scott Stormo  
ALCOM/J64, Mr. Timothy Woodall  
MOA, Mr. Trygve Erickson  
SOA DPS, Mr. John Rockwell  
OMO, Mr. Del Smith