



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



MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council

October 25, 2018

FROM: SOA Co-Chair

SUBJECT: July 19 Meeting Minutes

TO: See Distribution

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
ASAC Antony Jung	Alaska Federal Executive Association - Federal Bureau of Investigation (via teleconference)
Ms. Linda Murphy	Alaska Municipal League (via teleconference)

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests Present:

Mr. John Rockwell	User Council Chair
Mr. Del Smith	Operations Manager
Mr. Scott Stormo	SOA OIT ALMR Manager
Mr. Tim Woodall	DOD ALMR Program Manager
Mr. Trygve Erickson	MOA AWARN Manager
Mr. Jim Nicholl	Motorola Solutions
Mr. Nate Skinner	User Council Vice Chair & DNR Forestry
Mr. Harry Markley	FirstNet
Ms. Kristi Wilde	FirstNet
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 1:40 p.m. Roll call was read.

NOTE: ASAC Tony Jung joined via teleconference after the roll call was read.

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

Deputy Commissioner Comer asked if there were any opening statements or special announcements, and there were no responses.

3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.** Deputy Commissioner Comer asked the other council member if they had reviewed the April meeting minutes and requested a motion for their approval, if there were no changes.

Motion: Approve the April 19 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. System Upgrade Assistance (SUA) and Equipment End of Life (EOL). Mr. John Rockwell advised this is a capital money request, regarding SUA only.

Mr. Timothy Woodall reminded the council that the SUA can't be implemented until after the 7.17 update and this program saves 25 – 27 percent in costs over regular capital upgrades every 3 – 5 years.

Deputy Commissioner Comer stated the program is definitely worth doing.

Mr. Trygve Erickson added the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) has their quote, as well as the money and he had been working with Mr. Joe Piksa on it. He stated they anticipate signing the contract sometime this quarter and they are also making plans for the out years.

NOTE: At the end of the discussion, Deputy Commissioner Comer requested this be **CLOSED** and there were no objections.

b. Cost Share. Mr. Rockwell advised the state had chosen to utilize the same costs for both FY18 and FY19.

Mr. Smith advised the FY19 membership agreements had been sent out in May and so far there were 119 returned, with 3 pending from the Department of Defense. He added the Nelchina-Mendeltna agreement had been terminated for cause and their radios

deleted from the System as the agency failed to do their annual subscriber inventory. Mr. Smith noted GlennRich was supposed to get the radios.

NOTE: At the end of the discussion, Deputy Commissioner Comer requested this be **CLOSED** and there were no objections.

c. SOA Quantar Replacement/Separation Study. Mr. Rockwell advised he was unsure of the status of the Separation Study update, but requested to discuss this item after the Budget discussion under New Business.

d. State Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB). Mr. Rockwell briefed the package had made it through the legal review. He advised the National Governor's Association was meeting next week and holding a seminar on this and that Alaska would be represented by Mr. Greg Jones from the Governor's Office, Mr. Chris White from the Office of Information Technology, Chief Jeff Tucker from the 9-1-1 Committee and himself and they would be discussing this issue with other states. Mr. Rockwell added once they completed this discussion, the package would go back to the Governor's office.

e. 9-1-1 Enhancement. Mr. Rockwell stated there was \$3.5M in the Governor's Budget for this project and had passed Phase 1. He reminded the council the center was to be located in the old Crime Lab and advised he would send a concept paper to the Operations Management Office to distribute to the council members. Mr. Rockwell added there are still some unknowns at this time, but the project was progressing.

5. User Council Update.

Mr. Rockwell stated his focus of discussion would be on the Budget. He noted the User Council had worked diligently and fairly aggressively on the FY2020 operating budget, and that was much needed.

6. Operations Management Office.

a. FY19 Membership Agreements. Mr. Smith stated he had already covered this under the Old Business discussion on Cost Share.

b. Zone 1 UPS. Mr. Smith advised the Tudor Master Site was still operating on one UPS at this time. He stated the State had ordered the replacement parts, but there was an issue with getting them connected.

Mr. Scott Stormo stated they had ordered the other required part today.

c. Security Manager. Mr. Smith briefed that there is currently no ALMR Security Manager, but Motorola was currently in discussion with the Department of Defense (DOD) and his understanding is that there will be someone available soon.

d. Zone 2 USARAK Sites. Mr. Smith stated the Birch Hill Master site is currently operating on only four of the eight required inverters.

Mr. Woodall advised that USARAK was working on the funds and it was a matter of time until this was resolved.

Deputy Commissioner Comer asked how long this situation had been going on.

Mr. Smith stated it had been three to four months now and that in addition to the Birch Hill Master site, Donnelly Dome only had two good inverters and operates on generator power only. He stated if the generator takes a hit, so does the site. Mr. Smith also added the Fort Greely site only has a generator backup and needs a battery plant.

Mr. Woodall advised that these power systems are not on contract and the Army and Air Force both had their money taken this fiscal year for combat systems. He added these have been identified as unfunded requirements at this point. Mr. Woodall stated for FY19, the appropriations were currently with the Senate and a big portion should flow to the agencies.

Mr. Smith stated this has been an on-going concern and wanted to bring it to the council's attention.

Deputy Commissioner Comer asked Mr. Stormo if one of these sites went down, would they respond.

Mr. Stormo stated his division would be willing to help in whatever way possible.

Mr. Jim Nicholl added he had been to Hawaii in June and there weren't funds for their land mobile radio (LMR) system there either. He added hopefully there will be funds the first of the new fiscal year.

e. Third Quarter Master Site Rollover. Mr. Smith stated it was his understanding there would be no rollover for this quarter.

Mr. Nicholl advised he had gotten approval to continue providing 7.13 security updates through the calendar year third quarter.

Mr. Rockwell stated the System could then be froze until January for the next update.

f. Annual Inventory. Mr. Smith stated all the agencies had returned their forms except JBER, who had an extension until the end of the month.

g. June System Metrics. Mr. Smith advised there 1,205,999 group calls which was up by 100K. He also noted there were 2,259,353 push-to-talks, up approximately 200K, and 801 busies which was up by 621. Mr. Smith stated some of the busies were attributed to more activity at the Whittier site, which is a three-channel site.

Deputy Commissioner Comer asked if the metrics had ever been compared on yearly and Mr. Smith advised that they had and historically the statistics fluctuate seasonally but not dramatically.

7. New Business.

a. FirstNet. Mr. Rockwell introduced Mr. Harry Markley and Ms. Christi Wild from FirstNet and asked them to explain where FirstNet sees itself regarding LMR and push to talk (PTT).

Mr. Markley stated mission-critical PTT is coming, but right now it is as good as it is going to be for the next two to four years. He cautioned from going away from LMR because important communications would be lost.

Mr. Woodall asked what is FirstNet's answer to the dispatch centric approach of public safety and if they have a solution for it.

Ms. Wild stated she did not see dispatch going away. She provided the analogy that FirstNet provides the highway but not the cars and advised she suspects at some point they will have an app, but the standards are still being written and manufacturers are in the early process of developing things.

Mr. Woodall asked if there was a planned convergence in the short term from a planning perspective to use IP gateways, MotoBridge® or WAVE®.

Mr. Markley stated all these enhance interoperability but in the end radios are a part of police equipment and that won't change.

Mr. Woodall stated the DOD has a deployable comms system used for interfacing with ALMR in their Defense of Civil Authorities (DSCA) role. He asked what AT&T's plan for integrating such systems.

Ms. Wild briefed they know satellite is not the answer for Alaska. She advised Mr. Woodall to sit down with AT&T and tell them what you are looking for and stated she would get him a point of contact. Ms. Wild stated FirstNet was definitely looking at the non-contiguous states differently, because of the inherent challenges they face.

Mr. Markley concluded by stating that with FirstNet, public safety had network access right away to the existing sites, but they are still building out over the next four years. He advised that responders should insist everything is right with how it operates before they put even one device on it.

b. FY2020 OMO/SMO Budget. Mr. Rockwell pointed out the figure of \$22M for essential equipment. Mr. Rockwell stated that every year we talk about a sustainable budget and talk about ways to bring money in, which is not different than an accounting system, but don't act on it.

Mr. Rockwell briefed the controllers (Quantars) are at their end of life in FY2020 from a Motorola perspective and in order to move forward beyond the 7.17 platform we need to upgrade them. He reminded the council this cost was first introduced a three years ago and not funded, then again two years ago it was not funded, and it was not funded again last year. Mr. Rockwell added the DOD has already upgraded their controllers (Quantars), so the State is either going to have to separate and/or do something different. He stated this is not coming from him, it's coming from the User Council (UC) and others not on the UC who are talking about ALMR and the implications it will have. Mr. Rockwell encouraged the council to approve the budget and communicate its importance up to the Governor's office.

Mr. Smith stated there were SOA sites where the Quantars had already been replaced by GTR8000s, the next generation of site radios, and it ultimately can double the site channel capacity on the System. He briefed if something isn't done to resolve this issue, ultimately ALMR will not exist as it does today, and support for public safety requires more than just funding for a uniform and a car.

Mr. Woodall reminded the council the DOD spent \$18.8M on equipment that was transferred at no cost to the State in 2012, so the initial capital costs for all this equipment were paid using Federal dollars.

Mr. Rockwell advised that upgrading the Quantars is an investment and it needed to be looked at the same way he looks at the laptop he uses. He stated he replaces his laptop every four years to keep pace with technology and security advancements.

Mr. Rockwell asked the council members if they felt comfortable approving the budget at this time, after the discussion.

Motion: Executive Council approve the FY2020 OMO/SMO Budget.

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

Mr. Stormo reminded the council again the DOD was already in the process of replacing their Quantars and the State was the last one to have to do theirs.

8. Next Meeting. Mr. Smith advised Deputy Commissioner Comer the next meeting is was scheduled for October 18, which is a State holiday and asked if he wanted to reschedule it to the following week.

Deputy Commissioner Comer asked Ms. Murphy and ASAC Jung if were any objections to moving the meeting to October 25 at 1:30 p.m. and there were no objections from either one.

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.



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

NOTE: The GoToMeeting dashboard experienced an error when closing and the meeting recording failed and was non-recoverable; therefore there is no recording for this meeting.

Distribution:

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