



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EXCOM) MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, May 21, 2020**

PRESENT	John “Don” Kaminar	Arkansas Commissioner	Chair
	Laura Anastasio	Connecticut Commissioner	Vice Chair
	Mary Gable	Maryland Commissioner	Rules
	Brian Henry	Missouri Commissioner	Comm & Outreach
	Rosemarie Kraeger	Rhode Island Commissioner	Past Chair
	Daron Korte	Minnesota Commissioner	Compliance
	Craig Neuenswander	Kansas Commissioner	Treasurer
	Ernise Singleton	Louisiana Commissioner	Training
	Chuck Clymer	DoD Representative	Ex-Officio
STAFF	Cherise Imai	Executive Director	Secretary
	Lindsey Dablow	Training and Operations Associate	
GUEST	Kathy Berg	Hawaii Commissioner	
	Pete LuPiba	Ohio Commissioner	

**ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

1. Chair Kaminar called the meeting to order on Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 1:02 PM ET. Roll call was conducted by Executive Director (ED) Cherise Imai. A quorum was established.

**ITEM 2 – AGENDA AND MINUTES**

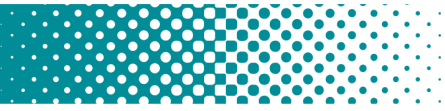
2. Chair Kaminar addressed the Members regarding recent communications from the Commission and the agenda for the meeting. Commissioner Ernise Singleton (LA) made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended: defer discussion of the correspondence until the end of the meeting, time permitting, and rearrange the agenda so the EXCOM could receive a report regarding the National Guard and Reserve Coverage Task Force from Commissioner Kathy Berg (HI) following Commissioner Pete LuPiba’s (OH) report concerning a Purple State Panel at the Annual Business Meeting (ABM). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mary Gable (MD). Motion carried.

3. Commissioner Rosemarie Kraeger (RI) made a motion to defer discussion of the correspondence from Commissioner Davina French (ND) until the EXCOM’s June meeting, motion seconded by Commissioner Brian Henry (MO). Motion carried.

4. Commissioner Gable motioned to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2020 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Henry. Motion carried.

**ITEM 3 – PROPOSAL TO ADD A PRESENTATION ON OHIO’S PURPLE STAR PROGRAM TO THE 2020 ABM AGENDA**

5. Chair Kaminar opened the discussion stating Arkansas adopted the Purple Star program based on Ohio’s model with some modification. However, the Chair noted that Purple Star is a state program not a program of the national Commission and was not sure the Commission could legitimately spend time and resources at the ABM discussing the program.



6. Commissioner LuPiba thanked the EXCOM for inviting him to speak on the Purple Star program. Commissioner LuPiba explained how the idea for the Purple Star program was formed and what led him and his home state to develop the award that recognizes military-friendly schools. He stated the Purple Star program supports the provisions of the Compact and enhances school climate and culture which affect transitioning military students. Commissioner LuPiba acknowledged that while the Purple Star Award is not a Commission initiative discussing it at the ABM would be similar to past panels on topics such as social emotional health of transitioning military students.

7. Chair Kaminar commended Ohio on the Purple Star school program and acknowledged how other states, Arkansas included, have seen the benefit of adopting the award program in their own states. He stated the program does a good job of educating school staff on what the law in their state says must be done on behalf of military-connected students. Chair Kaminar noted the program is not the focus of the Compact or the Compact Commissioner who's responsible for the administration of the Compact in their state. The Chair provided two examples of how the Purple Star program or similar programs can become a distraction or interfere with implementing the Compact. He noted during the 2018 ABM in Cleveland, Ohio some individuals who participated in the panel indicated that the needs of military families under the Compact had not appropriately been addressed. Then in 2019, prior to the ABM Chair Kaminar and ED Imai participated in a training exercise with the Air Force School Liaison Officers and the same issues, within the same state, were discussed. He reiterated that while Purple Star and similar programs are good, they cannot take center stage and become the focus taking away from implementing the Compact.

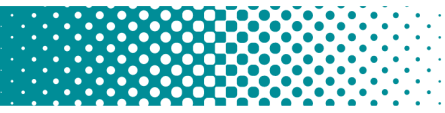
8. Commissioner LuPiba noted that the 2018 panel at ABM was not a Purple Star panel and issues brought up during the meeting were addressed within a calendar year. He also clarified that, at least in Ohio, the Purple Star program is sponsored and driven by the Ohio Department of Education not the MIC3 State Council.

9. Chair Kaminar reminded the EXCOM that the MIC3 logo was not to be used in affiliation with Purple Star or similar programs because they are not Commission developed initiatives, and with that opened the floor to discussion or questions. DoD Representative Chuck Clymer stated the Department of Defense gets multiple requests to partner with or form associations and cannot accept, but this program is an easier choice because it is part of the state education agency. He noted the program could be a good measurement for future success if the Commission decides it aligns with their criteria. Mr. Clymer concluded his statement noting that the Purple Star program has been a great news story that DoD can push out to their members.

10. Chair Kaminar asked Commissioner LuPiba if the Purple Star program in Ohio is mandatory. Commissioner LuPiba answered that he was not aware of any state that has implemented the program that has made it mandatory. In Ohio, and to his knowledge in other states implementing the Purple Star award, the program is voluntary, and the school must apply to be considered for the award. Chair Kaminar stated that in Arkansas once the legislature required school districts with a certain population of military students to designate a staff member and for that staff member to be trained was when Arkansas' state council began to see a rise in awareness of the Compact and the issues faced by military-connected students.

11. There being no further discussion. Chair Kaminar thanked Commissioner LuPiba for his comments and time. Commissioner Laura Anastasio (CT) asked the EXCOM to consider making Purple Star a webinar topic instead of a panel at the ABM. **[OPEN ITEM]**

#### **ITEM 4 – NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE TASK FORCE (NGRTF)**



12. **Chair – Strategic Plan** – Chair Kaminar yielded the floor to Commissioner Berg who outlined the current status of the NGRTF and its upcoming report to the Commission. Commissioner Berg reported that the Task Force has spent most of its time trying to understand the intent of Utah’s legislature when it changed the Compact Model Language extending coverage and the result of that action. The NGRTF has identified need, choice, and fairness as the motivating factors for extending Compact coverage. There are 500,000 school age active duty kids that frequently change schools versus 400,000 National Guard and Reserve children which do not move as often and that speaks to the need of extending coverage.

13. Commissioner Berg stated that when the Compact was developed consideration was given to active-duty, full-time military because they have to follow orders, whereas, the National Guard (NG) and Reserve do not order their members to change units or duty stations so moves within those services are personal choice. While members of the NG and Reserve perform an integral service, this is a gray area when it comes to extending coverage.

14. Commissioner Berg continued the Compact was developed to create a fair environment, level the playing field, for military-connected students but not to create a privileged group. The Task Force has considered what is fair for the children of NG and Reserve members because they don’t have a choice even though their parent serving do.

15. The EXCOM reviewed several documents provided by Commissioner Berg. The Task Force has determined that Utah’s legislation is not an appropriate example for other Compact states to emulate. Commissioner Berg proposed a session at the ABM that would highlight appropriate legislation that other Compact states have adopted to extend coverage to NG and Reserve within their states. The NGRTF recognizes there is a need, but it should be the focus of the state because the legislation could be locally focused. Questions remain that the NGRTF are working to answer.

16. Commissioner Kraeger thanked Commissioner Berg for the report and her leadership on the Task Force. Chair Kaminar followed with his appreciation for the Task Force. [OPEN ITEM]

#### ITEM 4 – OLD BUSINESS

17. **Mid-Year Survey Questions** – Chair Kaminar yielded the floor Ed Imai who thanked the Members for their feedback after the last EXCOM meeting. ED Imai reviewed edits and additions on the survey with the EXCOM. Question 16 and 17 were added to gage the Commission’s thoughts/concerns regarding the current COVID-19 situation and the viability of holding an in-person ABM.

18. Commissioner Gable stated that some states may not be allowed travel so the wording may need to be altered from “able to attend” to reflect it may not be a choice. ED Imai agreed to alter the wording. Commissioner Gable made a motion to accept the Mid-year Survey as presented, and Commissioner Craig Neuenswander (KS) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

19. **2021 ABM** – Chair Kaminar reviewed the proposed agendas, in-person and virtual, for the ABM. The Chair asked the EXCOM to consider both meeting in-person versus virtual and be prepared to decide at the EXCOM’s June meeting. Commissioner Kraeger asked about the hotel’s cancellation policy and ED Imai stated that the National Office has been in discussions with the hotel and if the meeting is moved back a year there is not penalty but cancelling the event would have a monetary penalty. At this time the National Office would recommend moving the ABM in Little Rock, AR back one year to avoid any penalty.

20. Chair Kaminar asked the Members to review this item so a decision could be made at the June EXCOM Meeting. Commissioner Daron Korte (MN) requested information from the hotel and

conference center regarding the venue's ability to meet social distancing guidelines and ED Imai said those would be made available to the EXCOM at the June meeting. [OPEN ITEM]

## ITEM 5 – NEW BUSINESS

21. **Challenge Coin Design Selection** – ED Imai reported nine coins remain with the old design, and those were purchased roughly 10 years ago so the design needed to be updated to reflect the current logo and Mission of the Commission. ED Imai explained that the proofs being viewed by the EXCOM were mock drafts and a final proof would be provided by the printer.

22. Commissioner Singleton motioned to approve the first proof showing the books on a map of the U.S. surrounded by the Compact's Mission statement, seconded by Commissioner Kraeger. The EXCOM noted that the printer would need to add Hawaii and Alaska to the map and ED Imai explained the National Office's resources, when designing the mock-ups, were limited, but all member states would be present on the final proof. Motion carried

23. **Website Migration to WordPress RFP** - Chair Kaminar asked ED Imai to report on the MIC3.net migration to WordPress. The RFP developed by the National Office was reviewed by the EXCOM. ED Imai requested approval to issue the RFP and select a vendor once the proposals have been vetted.

24. Commissioner Kraeger motioned to approve issuing the RFP and selection of a vendor, seconded by Commissioner Gable. Motion carried.

## ITEM 6 – ADJOURNMENT

25. Prior to adjourning ED Imai informed the EXCOM that the Council of State Governments (CSG) applied for the Small Business Association PPP program and was approved. As an affiliate of CSG the National Office's personnel payroll would be covered during the month of June by this program. Additional information will be available to the Committee during June's meeting. [OPEN ITEM]

26. Chair Kaminar asked ED Imai to poll the group regarding a second meeting to address agenda items not discussed at the May meeting.

27. There being no further business to conduct, Chair Kaminar adjourned the meeting at 2:12PM ET.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Cherise Imai  
Secretary/Executive Director