MEDIA RELEASE

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INAUGURAL STATE COUNCIL MEETING FOR MILITARY KIDS

Jefferson City, Missouri – The Missouri State Council for the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) met November 29 for its inaugural state council meeting to discuss issues that military children face as they transition between schools across State lines.

"It is very exciting to be part of Missouri's first Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission state council meeting. Missouri has a rich tradition of supporting our armed services and is the home to several key defense installations," said Dr. Brian Henry the MIC3 Commissioner for the State of Missouri, "providing outstanding educational opportunities for all students of military families, easing the transitions they face when entering Missouri schools, and being part of the national dialogue in improving educational quality for military students is critical as we continue to promote Missouri's role in our nation's military."

Military families move between postings on a regular basis. Reassignments is stressful for military families, especially children. The average military student faces transition challenges more than twice during high school, and most military children will attend between six and nine different school systems in their lives from kindergarten to 12th grade. More than half of all military personnel have dependents, and the impacts of reassignment and long deployments are key considerations when making long-term life choices.

"The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education takes seriously the transition needs of all students, especially those of students whose parents serve in our nation's armed forces," said Dr. Margie Vandeven, the Commissioner of Education for Missouri, "this council provides a format for educational professionals, experts in the defense industry, and representatives from our various military installations to discuss critical issues facing Missouri's military students and promote best practices that will address the needs of all students experiencing educational transitions."

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children was developed by the Council of State Governments' National Center for Interstate Compacts, the U.S. Department of Defense, national associations, federal and state officials, state departments of education, school administrators and military families. The MIC3 is a governmental entity operating under the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. All 50 states and the District of Columbia are members of the compact, which ensures the uniform treatment of military children transferring between states and public-school districts.

For more information about MIC3, please visit www.mic3.net.

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