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To: Cherise Imai, Executive Director, Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission

From: Ben Rasmussen, Utah Commissioner

Date: June 16, 2021

Re: Annual Report

Pursuant to MIC3 policy -1-1017, Utah submits this annual report for its State Council on Military Children.

1. Membership Roster

Due to changes in Utah's compact statute, Utah no longer has a council appointed by the Governor. Instead, the state Legislature has directed the Utah State Board of Education to coordinate a state council. [Utah Code Ann. § 53E-3-920.1](#). The State Board of Education has organized the State Council on Military Children by administrative rule, [Utah Admin. Code R277-929-3](#).

Utah's State Council on Military Children includes:

- Sydnee Dickson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Gary Harter, Director of Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs
- Colonel Thomas Ausherman. 75th Mission Support Group Commander, Hill Air Force Base
- Reid Newey, Superintendent, Davis School District
- Emily Harrison, Chapter Director, Blue Star Families of Utah
- Fred Allen, Utah President, Association of the United States Army
- Heidi Bauerle, Director, Leadership Learning Academy
- Zuri Garcia, Youth Programs Specialist, 4-H Utah State University
- Jennie Taylor, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army
- Leslie Flynn, School Liaison Officer, Hill Air Force Base
- Brian Garrett, Deputy Director for Military Affairs – Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs

II. Points of Contact

- Ben Rasmussen, Utah Commissioner, ben.rasmussen@schools.utah.gov, 801-538-7835
- Sydnee Dickson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, sydnee.dickson@schools.utah.gov, 801-538-7800

III. Summary of Activities

The State Council on Military Children met virtually on January 15, 2021. Meeting minutes are provided with this report. The council's efforts have been focused on making Utah a more welcoming state for military families. In the last year:

1. The Utah State Legislature [amended state code](#) to facilitate early enrollment for military families who receive orders to transfer to the State of Utah.
2. The Utah State Legislature [updated statutory definitions](#) to include the Space Force as a recognized branch of the armed forces for purposes of Utah laws.
3. The Utah State Board of Education joined the many states who adopted the Purple Star Schools Program by [amending Board rule](#) to establish Utah's program. Utah will be recognizing several outstanding schools as part of its first cohort of schools in August.



4. Utah's Commissioner attended the 2020 Virtual ABM and served on MIC3's National Guard and Reserve Taskforce and Rules Committee.

V. Expansion of Compact

MIC3 has asked each state to report its position to the national office on expanding the compact to include children of National Guard and Reserve members, regardless of Title duty status. It will come as no surprise that Utah supports taking steps to expand the compact nationally, just as Utah has already done in its state compact. Utah feels that all children of our country's servicemembers are entitled to compact protections.