



Alabama MIC3 2023-24 End of the Year Report

Submitted by Dr. Douglas L. Ragland, Alabama Commissioner

There have been excellent accomplishments during the 2023-24 year in the state of Alabama in relation to MIC3 and Military Families in general, as well as other governmental issues in our state, and they are as follows:

- The Honorable Governor Kay Ivey approved a Military Proclamation for Month of the Military Child on April 29, 2024. I have attached the Proclamation to this email.
- We have made excellent strides in enhancing awareness of MIC3 in Alabama with our School Liaison Officers participation in Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) 360 Summits in enhancing the knowledge of educators regarding MIC 3 and the roles of our School Liaison Officers in the transitional process of our Military Families in various school systems.
- I am currently a member of the Legislative Appointed Alabama Purple Star Schools Committee. This committee, along with the support of the Alabama State Superintendent of Education have increased the number of Purple Star Schools to 249 as it stands for 2024.
- A total of 76 schools were designated as Purple Schools Status in 2024.
- A total of 122 schools were designated Purple Star School Status in 2023.
- Major General Sheryl Gordon, Adjutant General for the Alabama National Guard, and Member of the Alabama Council Retired Effective January 1, 2024.
- Brigadier General David Pritchett was hired on January 1, 2024, as the next Adjutant General for the Alabama National Guard and has accepted the role of serving on the Alabama Council.
- We have successfully resolved all cases pertaining to our Military Families in Alabama for 2022-23.

The following outstanding report from Maxwell Air Force for Robert Richert and Katherine Ganster, highlights excellent overall leadership and accomplishments pertaining to MIC3 Issues, Non-MIC3 Issues, Legislative Actions, Purple Star Schools and Community Events/ Partnerships:

MIC3 Issues

- **Eligibility, SEC.6.101. a.2. (Eligibility for Enrollment)** - Helped divorced family, mother is deployed, children attended the DoDEA school on base (residents). Children moved off base to reside with dad while mom (active duty) is deployed. DoDEA school informed Dad, the children could no longer attend the DoDEA school (Jul 23).
- **Eligibility, SEC.6.102. b. (Eligibility for Extracurricular Participation)**- Parent requested assistance and information regarding tryouts for sports. A newly arrived military student was informed that volleyball tryouts happened last spring before her

arrival, summer team workouts were occurring, and the team was full. The coach ultimately offered a date for a tryout but reiterated that the team is full and that they've been doing summer workouts, giving the distinct impression the student doesn't have much of a chance of joining. SLPM shared the parents' frustrations with our District POC for situational awareness. UPDATE 1 - The student wanted to try out for the cross-country team. Again, she was informed the team tryouts already occurred and the roster was set. The parent asked if the school was required to give her a look. I contacted the District POC for assistance who in turn contacted the school and informed them of MIC3, Chapter 600, SEC.6.102 Eligibility for Extracurricular Participation. The student was offered a tryout on August 15, 2023 (Jul/Aug 23).

- **Eligibility, SEC.4.101. a. (Waiver Requirements)** - Received a phone call from a Coast Guard family needing assistance with the transfer of credits from DoDEA Guam HS to a school in Alabama (Orange Beach HS). Asked the parent to send me a copy of the student's transcript and course description of the classwork in question. I educated the parent about the MIC3 and let her know SLPM would contact the school counselor and Principal. UPDATE1 - SLPM contacted Orange Beach HS Guidance Counselor and Principal requesting their assistance to resolve the transfer of credits at the lowest level invoking MIC3, waiver of credits. Currently awaiting a response. UPDATE 2 - After several attempts, I was able to connect the parent and school. The school reviewed the student's transcript and accepted/credited two courses previously taken towards HS graduation. The school enrolled the student in virtual access to complete the remaining needed course for graduation (Jul 23).
- **Eligibility, SEC.5.102. a. (Educational Program Placement)** - Received a phone call from a parent regarding gifted placement in Pike Road schools. We connected with the school, and they are looking into the concerns. Students have assessments from their sending school and the receiving school did not place the students as the parents thought they should be placed. Connected with Pike Road schools regarding two families having students that they feel are not being placed correctly in gifted programs. Provided the schools with the MIC3 rules. Called the parent to check on the situation with Pike Road and the gifted placement of a child in 4th grade. They said the school had been in contact with them (Aug 23).
- **Eligibility, SEC.5.101. a. (Course Placement)** - Provided information to a family with a child at Park Crossing HS regarding course schedule changes and MIC3. The child has been placed into classes they have already taken. Asked the parent to communicate with a counselor and provided the parent the Alabama HS graduation requirements to see what the child would need or do we need to look for a reciprocal diploma (Aug 23).
- **Eligibility, SEC.4.103. a. (Transfers During Senior Year)** - Received a phone call from a military family seeking assistance for the high school senior. The sponsor recently retired from active-duty service and relocated his family to Alabama from California. Due to the varying graduation requirements between LEAs the student's workload has increased. Parents want to explore the option for the student to receive a reciprocal diploma from his previous school (CA). Contacted school guidance counselor in Mobile, AL. SLPM seeking assistance on behalf of a family who recently moved to the area from California needing assistance to navigate a reciprocal diploma. Awaiting a response from the counselor. UPDATE - Connected all parties. After further review/discussion, it was

determined the student will be credited with coursework from California and can complete the remaining course requirements toward graduation in Alabama (Nov 23).

- **Eligibility, SEC.4.103. a. (Transfers During Senior Year)** - Informational e-mail to parents relocating in the upcoming PCS cycle (summer 24). The student has attended the local HS for the past 3 years and wants to explore the option of fulfilling his course work at the new school receiving credit at his current HS and walking in 2025 commencement. SLPM has connected with gaining installation SLPM to begin the engagement. Also, guided the parent about the process and recommended she contact the current school's guidance counselor to inform them of the student's desire. Awaiting a response from the parent and counselor to determine the next steps. UPDATE -Follow-up e-mail to the parent of a local student transitioning to Dover AFB in the summer. Initially tracking as a potential MIC3, SEC4.103 (Transfer during Senior year). After discussion with the local district, MIC3, and Dover SLPM it was determined it does not meet MIC3 SEC4.103. The parent redressed with the district superintendent to provide a reciprocal diploma even though it did not meet the MIC3 requirement to provide. The request was denied. Lawyers who reviewed the issue indicated it would be "fraud" for the Alabama school to award the diploma. Dover Secretary of Ed. wants rationales from Alabama and possibly raises the issue with Alabama's Superintendent of Education (Dec 23 – Apr 24).

Non-MIC3 Issues

- Application deadlines for Magnet Schools – Military families who received PCS orders later in the year (spring/summer) miss the opportunity to apply for Magnet schools due to closed application windows (Jan 2024).
- Application deadlines for Pre-K enrollment – Military families who received PCS orders later in the year (spring/summer) miss the opportunity to apply for Pre-K enrollment due to closed application windows (Mar 2024).
- Purple Star Schools – It appears the standards for achieving Purple Star School designation have been relaxed for SY2024. Our office would like the ALSDE to require the approving panel to utilize a rubric to verify schools are following through with required activities.
- **Legislation (we are following):**
 - **Alabama HB22** - Relating to public K-12 schools; to amend Section 16-28A-3, Code of Alabama 1975; to provide legislative findings; to define the role of the assistant principal as assisting the principal with certain duties, including student discipline; to require each public K-12 school to have an assistant principal, if funding is available; and to provide procedures for dividing the responsibility if a public K-12 school employs more than one assistant principal.
 - Sponsor – Mark Gidley
 - Introduced (75% - Passed in the House/Senate) – May 9, 2024
 - **Alabama HB113** – To amend Section 16-28-4, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the minimum age for attendance at public schools; to require a child to complete kindergarten or demonstrate first-grade readiness before entering the first grade; to provide for circumstances under which a child who is under five years of age on

September 1 may be admitted to public kindergarten; to provide for circumstances under which a child who is under six years of age on December 31 may be admitted to public school first grade; and in connection therewith would have as its purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the meaning of Section 111.05 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022.

- Sponsor – Pebblin Warren
- Introduced (75% - Passed in the House/Senate) – May 8, 2024.
- **Alabama HB129** – Relating to education; to enact the CHOOSE Act; to establish a refundable income tax credit to offset the cost of qualifying educational expenses; to direct the Department of Revenue to establish education savings accounts through which parents can access funds to direct the education of participating students through education service providers and participating schools; to establish CHOOSE Act program requirements for parents of participating students, education service providers, and participating schools; to specify powers and duties of the Department of Revenue in administering the CHOOSE Act program; to prevent fraud or other misuse of CHOOSE Act program funds; to establish the CHOOSE Act fund.
- Sponsor – Danny Garrett
- Introduced (75% - Passed in the House/Senate) – March 8, 2024.
- **Alabama HB188** –to K-12 public education; to amend Section 16-1-14, Code of Alabama 1975; to provide a uniform system of procedural due process protections for students facing long-term suspension or expulsion for violating the student code of conduct or state law.
- Sponsor – Terri Collins
- Introduced (100% - Passed in the House/Senate) – May 8, 2024.
- **Alabama HB251/SB206** – To prohibit public K-12 schools from taking certain actions regarding dependent children of active-duty military parents; and to prohibit public K-12 schools from membership in athletic associations that take these same actions. No public K-12 school may deny a dependent child of a full-time active-duty military parent immediate eligibility to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest on the basis of the child enrolling in a new school due to the child and his or her parent making a bona fide move pursuant to permanent change of station (PCS) orders received by the parent, regardless of the date upon which the child enrolls in the new school within the school attendance of the bona fide move. A public school and an athletic association may require a parent to provide his or her PCS orders to substantiate a bona fide move that necessitates a child's enrollment in a new school. This act shall become effective on October 1, 2024.
- Sponsor – Chad Robertson
- Introduced (75% - Passed in the House/Senate) – May 8, 2024.
- **Alabama HB280** - to public K-12 education; to amend Section 16-40A-3, Code of Alabama 1975, to require research-based instruction on fentanyl prevention and drug poisoning awareness in grades six through 12.
- Sponsor – Joe Lovvorn
- Introduced (100% - Passed in the House/Senate) – May 7, 2024.

- **Alabama HB290** – Public and nonpublic schools, sudden cardiac arrest, required to develop and implement cardiac emergency response plan.
- Sponsor – Ed Oliver
- Introduced (75% - Passed in the House/Senate) – May 9, 2024.
- **Alabama HB439** – Public K-12 education; to rename the position of technology coordinator to technology director; to provide for the minimum qualifications of technology directors for each school system; to provide a waiver process for certain school systems; and to require each individual serving in the role of technology director to complete a training program and continuing education instruction by the Alabama Leaders in Educational Technology.
- Sponsor – Alan Baker
- Introduced (75% - Passed in the House/Senate) – May 8, 2024.
- **Alabama HB450** - To propose a local constitutional amendment relating to Autauga County to provide for the levy and collection of an ad valorem tax in addition to any ad valorem tax currently levied; and to provide for the use of the proceeds for public school purposes in the county.
- Sponsor – Jerry Starnes
- Introduced (100% - Passed in the House/Senate) – May 7, 2024.
- **Alabama SB48** – Relating to public Pre K-12 education; to require the posting of classroom curricula on the website of the school; to permit parents or guardians of enrolled students, upon request, to request information on instructional and supplemental materials used in the classroom; to provide a complaint process; and to provide for the reporting of the number of complaints to the State Superintendent of Education and the Legislature.
- Sponsor – Greg Reed
- Introduced (75% - Passed in the House/Senate) – March 21, 2024.
- **Alabama SB98** – Public K-12 school security; School Security Program, established to require school security inspections and grading; School Security and Fire Safety Fund, established to provide grants; School Mapping Data Program, established to provide criteria for school maps; Department of Education and ALEA, authorized to adopt rules.
- Sponsor – Arthur Orr
- Introduced (75% - Passed in the House/Senate) – May 8, 2024.
- **Alabama SB157** – to public education employees; to authorize a teacher to exclude students from the classroom in certain circumstances; to authorize the placement of an excluded student under the control of a principal; to provide procedures relating to the return of an excluded student to the classroom; to authorize a school principal to suspend or recommend for alternative school a student who is excluded from the classroom three times in one month in certain circumstances; to require each local board of education to adopt a process for a teacher to appeal a principal's decision relating to a student's return to the classroom; to provide immunity to education employees for civil and criminal actions related to the performance of their duties; to authorize, and in certain circumstances, require, the Educators' Liability Trust Fund reimburse certain expenses for certain legal fees incurred by education

employees; to require the Educators' Liability Trust Fund to provide an annual report; to create a rebuttable presumption that teachers take necessary actions relating to classroom maintenance; and to require the State Board of Education to adopt a model policy and each local board of education to adopt a policy.

- Sponsor – Arthur Orr
- Introduced (75% - Passed in the House/Senate) – May 8, 2024
- **Alabama SB211/HB292 – To amend** Section 16-28-60, relating to the remote enrollment of children of active-duty military personnel in public K-12 schools; to include the remote enrollment of special needs children of active-duty military personnel; to provide for the transfer of records relating to the child; and to require informed parental consent prior to the reevaluation of the special needs student.
- Sponsor – Donnie Chesteen
- Introduced (75% - Passed in the House/Senate) – May 2, 2024

Purple Star Schools

- 76 new schools were designated Purple Star School status in April 2024. Bringing Alabama's total to 249 Purple Star Schools. 122 schools achieved Purple Star Status in 2023.

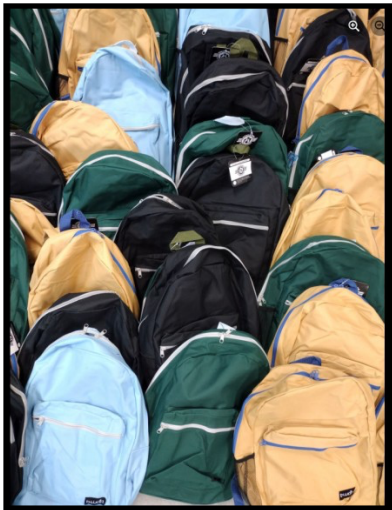
Community Events/Partnerships

- In partnership with Operation Homefront coordinated a base event featuring information booths from fifteen school/community partners and provided 250 backpacks filled with school supplies to military-connected students (Jul 23).
- Conducted multiple MIC3 briefings to educators at MCEC 360 Summits throughout the state (Orange Beach – Aug 23, Montgomery – Nov 23, Huntsville – Dec 23, Phenix City – Feb/Apr 24). Briefed approximately 200 educators about the MIC3 and how it supports military-connected students.
- Coordinated three resiliency events with the School Liaison Office, Military Family Life Counselor, and local high school students. More than 100 students served (Sept 23, Dec 23 & Mar 24).
- Coordinated with multiple on-base organizations to arrange school visits for several local high schools and 250 students to participate in Air University (Maxwell AFB)/19th AF Fly-in/High School Career Expo (Oct 23).
- Arranged AF Band of the West to visit/perform at several (3) local schools (Nov 23). 500+ students attended.
- Instituted Military Family Life Counselor (MFLC) support at 4 new local schools (Nov 23).
- Served as a panelist (speaker) and hosted a booth at the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) Installation Innovation Forum in Orlando, FL (Nov 23).
- SLPM attended the MIC3 Annual Business Meeting (Nov 23).
- SLPM coordinated with on/off base agencies to conduct a Teen Dating Violence Awareness presentation at a local high school (Feb 24).
- SLPM office hosted multiple virtual chats with inbound military personnel PCSing to



- Alabama (Jan/Apr 24). More than 50 participants.
- SLPM coordinated an Air Show STEM Day for 58 schools and 3000+ students from Central Alabama. Students were exposed to more than 40 exhibitors showcasing Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), Robotics, Drones, Planetarium, programs, and jobs related to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. (Apr 24)
 - SL office coordinated with Retirement Systems of Alabama (RSA) to light Montgomery & Mobile's RSA tower Purple to honor and recognize Purple UP! Day for Month of the Military Child. We also collaborated with the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce to light the downtown fountain purple.

Operation Homefront Back to School Brigade – Jul 2023

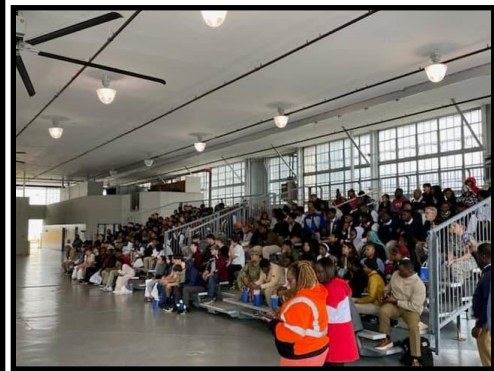






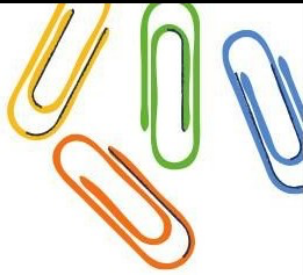

19th Air Force Fly-in/High School Career Expo







School Liaison Virtual Chat

A cluster of five colorful paper clips (yellow, green, blue, orange, and red) is positioned in the upper right corner of the graphic.A collection of school supplies including a stack of three books (green, yellow, and blue), a pair of pink scissors, a yellow ruler, and a blue pencil holder containing several colored pencils and a pen, is located in the lower right corner.

• • • • • • • • • •
• • • • • • • • • •

PREK-12TH GRADE SCHOOL INFORMATION MAXWELL AFB

School Options

- Zoned Schools
- Magnet Schools
- DoDEA Pilot Program
- Out-of-District Options
- Private Schools
- Other questions

PICK A SESSION
17 Jan @ 5:30 PM
19 Jan @ 11:00 AM
24 Jan @ 8:30 PM

Contact us for more information at:
42fss.fyes.schoolliaison@us.af.mil

Month of the Military Child



2024 Beyond the Horizon Air Show and STEM Day Event

Share with your schools



Local schools are invited to attend

STEM Day

5 April 2024

5th - 12th grade students

9:00-2:00

Schools must register through the link provided or the QR code

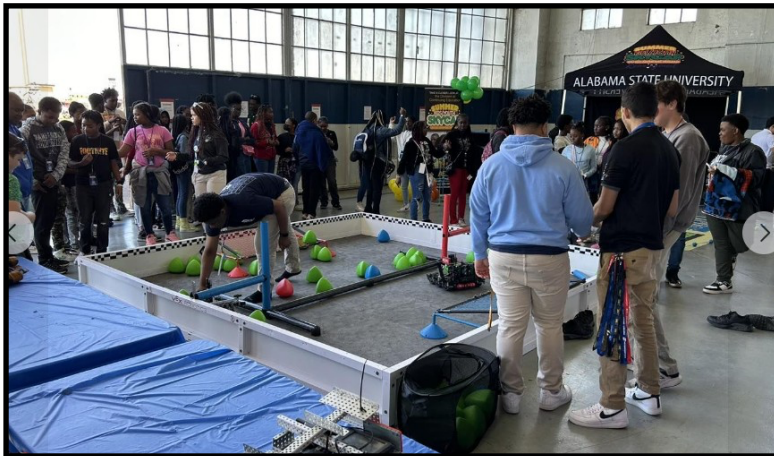
1!!!
Sign up by **31 Jan 2024**
LIJ:dt..





MIC3

MILITARY INTERSTATE
CHILDREN'S COMPACT
COMMISSION





Erica Lewis, School Liaison Officer for Redstone Arsenal, has displayed excellent leadership as a School Liaison Officer in her community for 2023-24, which is as follows:

- *SLO, along with the Redstone Arsenal Garrison Commander, COL Brian Cozine, participated in the Impact Aid kickoff with our 3 local school districts (Huntsville City Schools, Madison City Schools, and Madison County Schools) on October 12, 2023. Throughout the campaign, information was shared with RSA workforce and residents on Impact Aid.
- *SLO and RSA Garrison Commander, COL Brian Cozine shared opening remarks for the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) 360 Summit on December 4, 2023. The SLO talked with educators about the role of a School Liaison Officer and thanked them for the vital role teachers play in easing the transition of military-connected students. *SLO was able to implement another successful year (23-24) of programming for our homeschool students, where the homeschoolers were able to participate in fun and engaging activities to include, archery, STEM activities, art, and physical fitness.
- *SLO coordinated with local schools to have over 47 people from RSA organizations participate in Read Across America. Volunteer readers went to 13 different schools across 3 school districts to read to students on Dr. Seuss's birthday. They shared stories and the importance of reading.
- *SLO successfully planned and executed JRTOC Day 2024, held at Redstone Arsenal on April 4th. This was the first time the event has been held since COVID. The purpose of the event was to showcase the different career path and post-secondary opportunities that exist here at Redstone Arsenal. The Garrison hosted 578 cadets from 15 high schools across the Tennessee Valley area. Cadets participated in panel discussion, rotated through various booths, and displays from tenant organizations on the arsenal as well as community partners, participated in a fitness and spirit competition. It was a great day for all who participated!
- *SLO held the annual Kindergarten Boot Camp for children in the Strong Beginnings program on May 15th. 35 students were able to rotate through stations to help them see what a day of kindergarten will be like once they start school. It was a fun event for all!
- *SLO continues to build relationships with our military families by providing them resources, education, and advocacy. She also continues to strengthen partnerships with community stakeholders and education leaders through continued partnerships and collaboration.

Kimberly Kozel, **Department of Defense Military Representative**, and **School Liaison Officer**, Soldiers Services Center, **Fort Novosel US Army** has shown excellent leadership in her schools and community which is as follows:

- Coordinated efforts to provide Enterprise City Schools with two Military Family Life Counselors to provide support to nine schools in the district. The support has been well received by school personnel and most of all offering awesome support to Military Families in the district. Nothing but positive feedback has been received and support will continue for the 24/25 school year.
- Worked with IMCOM School Support Services Director to provide Military Family Life Counselors support to DoDEA Parker Elementary School on Ft. Novosel.
- New requests for MFLC support have not been suspended since October 2023. We utilized our current imbedded Child and Youth Services MFLC to provide support three days a week at the elementary school and continue providing services to CYS Families two days a week from April 2024-May 2024.
- MFLC support will continue to be provided three days a week for the upcoming 24/25 SY and until such time they begin allowing new MFLC support requests.
- A student at Carroll High School, Ozark, AL, graduated and walked with her 2024 classmates with a Regents Diploma from James I O'Neal High School due to Kim's diligent and persevering efforts to work with New York State Officials, as well as Alabama Commissioner, Dr. Douglas L. Ragland
- Upon enrolling at Carroll High School, when transferring from her New York High School in the summer of her senior year, it was determined that she would need to take several classes through credit recovery to catch up with Alabama High School Graduation Requirements. Through working closely with counselors, school personnel and Alabama/New York MIC3 commissioners, she was able to graduate and participate in all the senior activities with a diploma from her former New York High School. The outstanding support from New York Commissioner, Dr. Debra Jackson, and Alabama Commissioner, Dr. Douglas Ragland was an integral part of ensuring that the compact was followed and allowed for an expeditious resolution to stumbling blocks that were presented as barriers to the success of this process and for this student.
- Kim Kozel has truly been an asset the Dale County Schools, her community, and Ft. Novosel.

Nyoka Johnson, CYS Coordinator Anniston Army Depot Department of Defense has shown excellent leadership in her schools and community which is as follows:

- The Anniston Army Depot Department of Defense has successfully increased attendance in the last 5 months.
- The Anniston Army Depot Department of Defense is currently within its 15-day window for reaccreditation with NAEYC, which is one of the highest accreditations to obtain and maintain in early childhood.
- For the month of April, the Anniston Army Depot Department of Defense did several activities to celebrate the Month of the Military Child (MOMC).
- The Anniston Army Depot Department of Defense is more civilian based and has a very limited soldier population.
- Nyoka Johnson in addition to serving as the CYS Coordinator, is responsible for many roles including serving as the School Liaison Officer for the Anniston Army Depot. She is truly an asset to the Anniston Army Depot and her community.

In closing, as the Alabama Commissioner for MIC3, I am very proud of my Military Education Family Liaison, Department of Defense Military Representative, Child Youth Service Coordinator, and School Liaison Officers for their excellent work and leadership in resolving all cases related to the Compact, assisting those individuals with concerns out of the jurisdiction of the Compact, serving their respective communities with a Spirit of Excellence in creating partnerships benefiting military families via schools, government, and community organizations, and helping to bring awareness to the Compact, and other Military Interests.



MILITARY INTERSTATE
CHILDREN'S COMPACT
COMMISSION



MILITARY INTERSTATE
CHILDREN'S COMPACT
COMMISSION