

Arizona 2024 End-of-Year Report
July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024

First Name: Peter

Last Name: Laing

I am the Compact
Commissioner for:
Arizona

The membership of the state's MIC3 council consists of the following members*:

The membership of the state's MIC3 council consists of the following::

- Brig. Gen. Joseph Baldwin, National Guard Assistant for Director of the Army National Guard Staff, Arlington, Virginia
- Senator Sonny Borrelli, Member, Arizona State Senate
- Col. Charles Dudik, Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma
- Col. James Greenwald, Ret., Senior Manager, Data Link Products at Collins Aerospace
- Maj. Gen. Anthony Hale, Commanding General, U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence & Fort Huachuca
- Kathy Hoffman, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Brig. Gen. Gregory Kreuder, Commander, 56th Fighter Wing, Luke Air Force Base
- Gabriella (Gabee) Lepore, Representative from the Executive Branch
- Kim Lopez, Professor, ASU School of Education
- Col. Patrick McFall, Commander, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground
- Maj. Gen. Kerry Muehlenbeck, Adjutant General of Arizona
- Bridget O'Neill, Teacher, Florence Unified School District
- Representative Joanne Osborne, Member, Arizona State House of Representatives
- Maj. Gen. Howard Purcell, Air Component Commander, Arizona Air National Guard
- James Sheldahl, Superintendent, Yuma Elementary School District
- Col. Joseph Turnham, Commander, 355th Wing, Davis-Monthan Air

Force Base

- Nicola Winkel, Community Liaison, Arizona Coalition of Military Families

*Please note that Arizona is reviewing and working to update the current membership of the State MIC3 Council to reflect changes in command assignments and elected officials.

Two points of contact for issues related to the Compact in my state are::

Two points of contact for issues related to the Compact in my state are:

- The Arizona MIC3 Primary Point of Contact is:
Peter Laing – Arizona MIC3 Commissioner, Interim CFO, Pima County School Superintendent’s Office

- The Arizona MIC3 Secondary Point of Contact is:
Aaron Wonders – Policy Advisor, K-12 Education, Office of Governor Katie Hobbs

Accomplishments: Accomplishments:

Two bills were signed into law by Governor Hobbs in support of military students and families.

The first established a new Purple Star School Program:

- HB2246: Creates the optional Purple Star School Program within the Arizona Department of Education to identify schools that provide support to military students and families.

The second added the option for school districts and charter schools to give enrollment preference to the children of a U.S. Armed Forces member who is on active duty or was killed in the line of duty. This is designed to work in concert with Arizona’s existing legislation providing for open enrollment within Arizona’s public schools:

- HB2311: Adds that a charter school or school district may give enrollment preference to the children of a U.S. Armed Forces member who is on active duty or was killed in the line of duty.

The Governor also appointed a new MIC3 State Commissioner - Peter Laing, who currently serves as the Interim CFO for the Pima County School Superintendent’s Office.

Activities:

Activities:

- School Liaison Officers provided training and support to launch an initial pilot of Arizona’s new Purple Star School program to, in part, provide support for passing HB2246, the new Purple Star School bill.
- Governor Hobbs convened a Military Commanders Roundtable Discussion on 5/16/2024 at Luke Air Force Base.
- Governor Hobbs held a formal signing ceremony for HB2246 at Luke Air Force Base on 5/16/2024 following the Military Commanders Roundtable Discussion, which established Arizona’s Purple Star School Program.
- o Gov. Hobbs visits Luke AFB to support military children

(<https://www.luke.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3781509/gov-hobbs-visits-luke-afb-to-support-military-children/>)

o WATCH: Governor Katie Hobbs makes Purple Star School Program official in Arizona (<https://www.abc15.com/news/local-news/watch-governor-katie-hobbs-makes-purple-star-school-program-official-in-arizona>)

Presentations:

Presentations:

School Liaison Officers provided training and technical assistance support to the initial pilot cohort of schools and school districts participating in the new Arizona Purple Star School program.