

CALIFORNIA STATE COUNCIL MINUTES
Wednesday, December 9, 2020

PRESENT	<p>Khieem Jackson John Burns Christian Mendoza Jesse M. Najera Stephanie Papas Cecilia Yacuta</p>	<p>Compact Commissioner Facilitator and Chair School Liaison Officer School District Representative California Department of Education DoD Liaison, Regional School Liaison Officer</p>
EXCUSED	<p>Sylvia Crowder Honorable Todd Gloria Patricia Rucker Honorable Tom Umberg</p>	<p>Family Education Liaison Assembly Member, California State Assembly California State Board of Education Senator, California State Senate</p>
GUESTS	<p>Cherise Imai Lindsey Dablow Rocky Chavez Kathleen Berg Rosemarie Kraeger Pete LuPiba Greg Lynch LCDR Jesse Milton Candace Lang Jennifer Gibbons Don Kaminar Kelli May Stacey Bangston Aubrie Fong Nakeya Gillmore Margaret Gladders Retha Goodly April Hallback Mindy Hayes Stacey Hendricks Monica James Chanin Massaglia Kristi Terry Kathleen Sanchez Julie Wilbanks</p>	<p>Executive Director, MIC3 Training and Operations Associate, MIC3 Chair of Governors Military Advisory Council MIC3 Hawaii Commissioner MIC3 Rhode Island Commissioner MIC3 Ohio Commissioner MIC3 Washington Commissioner Western Region NOAA Chief of Operations Edwards AFB Child and Youth Services MCEC Community Liaison, Southern California MIC3 Arkansas Commissioner and Chairman of Comm. Southwest Regional Liaison</p> <p>Representative for Assembly Member, Kevin McCarty</p> <p>School Liaison Officer</p> <p>MCAS Miramar</p>

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS

1. The meeting was called to order by California Compact Commissioner Khieem Jackson and roll call was taken. A quorum was established.

2. Commissioner Jackson welcomed all attendees to the meeting and reminded attendees the meeting would be recorded, and the meeting presentations would be available on the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) website.

ITEM 2 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

3. Council Member Jesse M. Najera (School District Representative) motioned to approve the minutes from September 10, 2020 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Christian Mendoza (Travis AFB School Liaison Officer). Motion Carried.

ITEM 3 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

4. There being no public comment Commissioner Jackson moved to the next agenda item.

ITEM 4 – INFORMATION SHARING/DISCUSSION MIC3 CA ISSUES

5. National Oceanic Atmosphere Association Western Coalition Collaboration –
Commissioner Greg Lynch (WA) explained he has been an MIC3 Commissioner since 2009 and his state, Washington, was a part of a pilot program with Oregon and California, focused on welcoming the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA) families under the Compact. Commissioner Jackson explained the goal was to strengthen the ties with NOAA with California, Oregon, and Washington in hopes that the pilot could be replicated on the East Coast and beyond.

6. Lieutenant Commander Jesse Milton, Western Region NOAA Chief of Operation, was based out of Newport, Oregon. He provided a historical and operations overview of NOAA, and noted Captain Jeffrey Taylor was the executive point of contact and he was the technical point of contact for MIC3. NOAA includes the following six organizations: National Marine Fisheries Service, National Ocean Service, National Weather Service, Office of Oceanic and Atmosphere Research, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations and the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service. Ninety five percent of NOAA's budget is allocated to the maintenance and data collection NOAA's satellites provide. LCDR Milton said 15-30 NOAA Officers are based in California. They are located at locations across the state including La Jolla, San Diego, and at the Climate Monitoring Facility in Trinidad Head. Generally, sea and land assignments for NOAA officers are two to three years long.

7. State Council Member Christian Mendoza thanked LCDR Milton for the presentation and said it was helpful to see how widespread the influence of NOAA was in California. Mr. Mendoza asked about the location of families in proximity to a School Liaison and military base. LCDR Milton said he could conduct a survey to see where officers are located and better determine who needs assistance with the Compact.

8. State Council Member John Burns asked LCDR Milton if NOAA was only in a few states or more spread out. LCDR Milton said the officers are spread out along the East and West Coasts, as well as in Hawaii and Alaska. He said NOAA tries to leverage connections with the military when it can.

9. Colonel Rocky Chavez asked LCDR Milton if NOAA had an enlisted corps or if everyone was a commissioned officer. LCDR Milton stated everyone was a commissioned officer and clarified officers must have graduated with a four-year degree in a NOAA related science. Then the candidates go to Officer Training School (OTS) at the Coast Guard. At the end of OTS, the officers are assigned to a NOAA vessel. Col. Chavez inquired as to what the stress level was for NOAA families with

deployments. LCDR Milton said the stress level was very high, as the officers go back and forth between sea and land assignments.

10. Commissioner Jackson thanked Commissioner Lynch and LCDR Milton for their comments and said one of the priorities of the California State Council was to increase inclusion for all uniformed services.

11. **CA Governors Military Advisory Council (GMAC) Update** – Rocky Chavez, the Chair of the GMAC said there's nothing more important to a service member than the care of their children and the education of their children. He said there are great opportunities with the new administration for the state of California for education. Mr. Chavez said he's a member of the Association for Defense Communities (ADC) and they are emphasizing "One Community", which looks at how communities are supporting the military dependents. He offered to partner with the attendees on any legislation in California that would support military families.

12. Mr. Najera thanked Mr. Chavez for his presence at the meeting and said he'd like him to pay attention to the Purple Star Program information that would be presented shortly. Mr. Najera thinks the next route was legislation and said it would benefit the military children greatly.

13. Mr. Chavez asked a question regarding the makeup of the California State Council. Commissioner Jackson said there was only one open space on the California State Council as former member Todd Gloria was now the mayor of San Diego. Commissioner Jackson and Mr. Chavez briefly mentioned a desire to partner with the new First Lady, Dr. Jill Biden, regarding the education of military families.

14. **National Overview Military Students & Families Impacted by COVID-19** – Commissioner Rosemarie Kraeger (RI) complimented Commissioner Jackson on the meeting's agenda and the timely topics. Commissioner Kraeger said our MIC3 state councils need to step up because the issues military families face are magnified with the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the issues students and school districts are facing are lower attendance, disengaged students and an increase in failure rates. She noted more military families are homeschooling their children which makes it harder to connect with these families.

15. Commissioner Kraeger noted The Association of Defense Communities issued five keys challenges during this time, which matched her district's list. They include the following: access to learning, the social/emotional aspect, transitions, learning gaps, and vulnerable students (including special education students, ESL students, and AP students).

16. Commissioner Kraeger noted the importance of knowing what type of learning environment a student had at their previous district upon their relocation in order to best support the student. The military kids are likely feeling even more isolated due to the social distancing requirements and the inability to do some of the social, welcoming activities school districts normally do. She encouraged districts to creatively think of ways to get military students connected to organizations. Commissioner Kraeger noted the learning gap, or "Covid slide" will be around for the next couple of years. Her district has used a lot of online platforms to support students and gave students access over the summer to keep students engaged in reading, writing, and math. For students who are vulnerable, Commissioner Kraeger said her district was looking at extending the school year. She closed by saying we will be better as a result of this challenge, for example, the ability to have at-home learning on snow days.

17. Mr. Mendoza thanked Commissioner Kraeger for complementing school liaisons. He said a big issue in California was parents' requesting children remain in the same school district for the year even if they are doing a PCS (permanent change of station). Commissioner Kraeger said they have done what's best for the children, which was keeping children on their roster if they move. Mr. Najera noted the funding was based on last year's enrollment so that wouldn't affect funding for the school district.

18. Commissioner Jackson said California provided some Learning Loss Mitigation Funds to school district, with a condition being the school district having a plan to address learning losses. Commissioner Kraeger said there are many programs that can be virtual to track students' progress in learning.

19. Mr. Mendoza asked if military students in general are considered vulnerable due to being transient. Commissioner Kraeger responded that in Rhode Island they are not considered vulnerable but said it's an interesting concept.

20. Stephanie Pappas, with the California Department of Education, asked if the state has devoted additional funds to address mental health issues in students and teachers. Commissioner Kraeger said the governor of Rhode Island was looking at designating funds for this. Commissioner Jackson thanked Commissioner Kraeger for her insightful presentation.

22. **Purple Star Schools** – Commissioner Pete LuPiba (OH) stated Ohio has approximately 35,000 military connected children. In 2016, Ohio developed framework for establishing what a military family friendly school looks like. There are 340 Purple Star Schools across the state. The schools have staff members who have gone through training on helping military students. Purple Star has expanded to several more states and he noted there was no copyright or cost to have a Purple Star Program, and noted this was a school-based designation, not a school-district designation.

23. Commissioner Jackson asked what kind of workload it is to process all these schools into the program. Staff members are necessary to review the applications, but it was an all-volunteer force. Commissioner LuPiba said it may be good to talk to Texas about their experience of 100 applications for the inaugural class of Purple Star Schools. Commissioner Jackson also asked how this program supports military connected students. Commissioner LuPiba said the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) is doing a study with Columbia University to get some data regarding these programs. He offered access to look at the learning modules, hosted by Columbia University, that staff in Ohio have to go through to get Purple Star Schools designation.

24. Commissioner Jackson noted this was an entry conversation. Mr. Najera said he has worked with Mr. Mendoza and Ms. Gibbons on drafting a program proposal for California some time ago. In response to their efforts, California's Department of Education noted the lack of funding for a program of this nature was stretched thin and without funding was not an option at that time. Commissioner LuPiba noted most states have not allocated funds for the program, and New Hampshire was the only state fully funded through their National Guard command.

25. Mr. Burns asked if any research had been done to see how much it would cost to establish the Purple Star Schools Program to California. Ms. Pappas asked if there was any consideration of enfolding this program within the Distinguished Schools Program that already exists in California. That award program was funded by donations of large corporations. Commissioner LuPiba responded there was some discussion of it. Mr. Najera said they've also talked about the Model Continuation High School Recognition Program having the infrastructure to house it.

27. **National Guard and Reserve Task Force Report (NGRTF)** – Commissioner Kathleen Berg (HI) discussed the National Guard and Reserve Task Force which was created in the Spring of 2019 by the MIC3. The task force was created to collect data to determine if MIC3 should be expanded to cover the children of the National Guard and Reserve members. The report was presented at the 2020 MIC3 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) in October. These selected reserve members (the two National Guards and the five Service Reserves) regularly train and are mobilized for defense purposes federally or for state and community purposes. The members of these forces take the same oath as active-duty military members. There are a little over 800,000 members of the Select Reserve and 620,000 active-duty school age children of these members. Lots of these members are on Title 32 orders and many are civilian employees, both groups not currently covered by the Compact. For the Air and the Army National Guard showed that 920 Air Guard members moved from one state to another from October 2019 – March 2020. About 920 Army Guard members moved in the same six months. The Army Guard moves involved 176 children. The need was relatively low in numbers.

28. The NGRTF recommended MIC3 expand membership to all members of the Selected Reserve for moves related to changes in duty station and deployments in any active-duty status. Commissioner Berg read the options of how states could go about expanding the Compact. She said it seems possible they could do a simple amendment that would not affect dues for the states since the numbers are low. Commissioner Berg concluded her presentation stating it was important to include these members of the National Guard and Reserve.

29. Mr. Burns said most moves by National Guard Service Members are made within states and asked if this would apply to those members. Commissioner Berg explained the Compact does not apply to moves within the same state. If an amendment was made, the moves across state lines would be covered for the National Guard and Reserve members. Mr. Burns said introducing an amendment to the legislation could open up several other issues apart from what the Compact is intended to do. He would be interested to hear the Superintendents position on it. He said a parallel state law that does not amend the Compact may be desirable. Commissioner Berg said he hit upon one of the biggest concerns others had regarding the Compact, and said state by state efforts with state legislation separate from the State Compact law is encouraged.

30. Mr. Mendoza said California had a bill that addressed military children's residency that allows children to stay in their school of origin for the school year. Commissioner Jackson reminded the council this was not a voting issue today, just an informative session. Commissioner Berg noted the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of MIC3 has not discussed this issue in depth. She suggested another avenue could be creating an Enhanced Compact (which would need to be adopted through legislation by several states in addition to the original Compact), which had been done by another compact regarding nursing licensure.

31. MIC3 Commissioner Don Kaminar (AR), Chairman of the EXCOM, was invited to give comments regarding this issue. He stated there are a few options in how to proceed and the EXCOM would discuss these at their meeting in January. He suggested a way to accomplish this would be for interested states to make their own changes in their legal codes, outside of the Compact Statute. He said the thought of a dues increase was a serious concern to states with large National Guard and Reserve military population, noting that MIC3 is not a for profit organization.

32. Commissioner Jackson encouraged members to become familiar with the report and be ready to share their thoughts and questions at the next state council meeting. One of the priorities for the council was to increase transparency.

33. **Schools Update Edwards Air Force Base CA School Liaison** – Candace Lang with Edwards Air Force Base Child and Youth Services provided a mission overview of the test base located 100 miles northeast of Los Angeles. There was a public school on the base, housed within a school district with 12,000 students. She noted military families can be upset when they come from a large school district to a very small district with less resources. For example, the Edwards Air Force base school does not have a Gifted and Talented Program. She asked if there was any conversation to identify military connected children as a vulnerable population. Commissioner Jackson was not aware of any particular streams of funding related to this.

34. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Lang said they created a program where an engineer adopted a classroom and worked under the direction of teachers. They saw great success and an increase in scores as well. Commissioner Jackson said funding was often an issue and praised her leadership in the school district. He said the Council hasn't engaged in particular advocacy for funding formulas but he's aware of some districts looking at creative ways to address funding (i.e., the San Diego Unified School District). Ms. Lang said one of the biggest challenges was the social and emotional toll the pandemic has taken on the students. Commissioner Jackson encouraged school liaisons to ensure they're reaching out and speaking to all systems of education in California (private schools, charter schools, public schools, etc.) as there are military connected students in each of these areas.

36. **Military Child Education Coalition** – Ms. Gibbons, the MCEC Community Liaison for Southern California gave a brief background of the organization. It was based in Texas, with 90 plus employees all over the world. The organization's vision was that every military connected child was college, workforce, and life ready. Research suggests the first two weeks a child enters a new school or campus was critical to set them up for success. MCEC's student programs have military and civilian kids work together to welcome new students. They also have parent programs to provide resources for military families, consultants to help families navigate transitions and professional development to educate community members on what these students will need.

37. Ms. Gibbons said their podcast, For the Sake of The Child, has a vibrant and devoted following. Their education summit was conducted virtually in November and had Dr. Jill Biden as a guest speaker. School Quest was a new initiative MCEC created, a virtual world where military families can enter all their school information and track their entire school career. It is a free online platform and it tracks everything they need, replacing the need to carry a file folder with all their information around. Commissioner Jackson suggested possibly backing up School Quest to preschool aged, knowing the benefits of early childhood education and the disruption that deployments bring to their lives.

38. Commissioner Jackson thanked the Council Members and those in attendance for their participation. An announcement was forthcoming on a series of trainings in February, March, and April for school liaisons. Lindsey Dablow, MIC3 Training and Operations Associate for MIC3 provided an overview of the training and resources available to attendees.

39. The members of the State Council thanked the attendees and Commissioner Jackson for an informative meeting.

ITEM 5 – ADJOURNMENT

40. With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 12:29 PM PT.