

Massachusetts Council of Military Interstate Commerce Commission
Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2025

1:30 PM to 2:30 PM

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Attendance

Members:

RADM J. Clarke Orzalli USN (ret), Commissioner, Massachusetts MIC3

Andrea Gayle-Bennett, Deputy Secretary - Executive Office of Veterans Services

Kerri Anne Quinlan-Zhou, Bourne School Superintendent

Christine Cowen, Military Family Education Liaison to MIC3, Military Connected Student Specialist,
Designee for Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Laurel Wironen, School Liaison, Hanscom AFB

Tom Moreau (EOE)

Capt. Patrick Sullivan, Boston Coast Guard

Ex-Officio Members:

None

Other Guests:

Jessica Foley, Representative Gordon's office

Col. Ratt Poisson. DOD Representative for Col Jorge Jimenez, Commander USAF AFMC 66, Hanscom AFB

Agenda:

- I. Welcome and Introduction**
- II. Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes from November 20, 2024**
 - a. Minutes were approved.
- III. Discuss Activity since November 2024 Meeting**
 - a. Annual Report to Compact – Commissioner Orzalli: Report is made every year by 30 June deadline. In addition to reporting on our annual state council meeting we reported that Hanscom and Bourne received Governor's Proclamations during the last reporting cycle.
 - b. Cases – Christine Cowen: Laurel Wironen and Commissioner Orzalli spoke about a Veteran inquiry concerning proper annotation of a HS transcript that did not include HS courses taken in middle school. Very little activity this year: only a handful of inquiries were received and none escalated to a full-blown case (two district inquiries and two parent of which one was the VA inquiry). It is speculated that we are getting the word out successfully since so few calls – annual orientation sessions took place where we cover the MIC3 program with districts etc.

- c. Purple Star Schools – Christine Cowen: Class of 2025 had 9 schools; Class of 2026 very little interest and of those that were interested none showed up to either informational session; notifications of the class of 2026 and information sessions were shared in multiple ways. Commissioner Orzalli noted that we have the major schools that have large majority of students represented.

IV. Ex-Officio Members

- a. No Member Present

V. Review of MIC3 Annual Business Meeting held October 23 and 24, 2025

- a. Ex-Officio Members: added an ex-officio member – Education Commissioners of States is now a member at the national council; Tom will reach out to the state to see who can represent at the next business meeting
- b. Election Results: Commission Chair Ernice Singleton (LA) term has completed. Election results: Daron Korte (MN) is new Chair; Mary Gable (MD) is new Vice-Chair; and Greg Lynch (WA) is new Treasurer
- c. Dues Formula Update: Voted on dues; MA has about 2300 students which the Coast Guard has the most students then the Army, and then Airforce; Commissioner Orzalli discussed the past cost of \$1.00 per student for year then in 2017 there was an increase to \$1.15 per student for the year. The voted to increase the dues for 2026. Some some states objected to the increase. In addition costs may go up further due to 8 grants canceled that support the Council of State Governments which provide services for MIC3.
- d. Other: Meeting was held during government shutdown therefore Military Personnel and Government civilians were not allowed to travel to meeting. Commissioner Orzalli attended the meeting hosted by the National Federation of State High School Associations at the National Collegiate Athletic Assication’s national headquarters.
- e. Commissioner Orzalli was recognized for ten-year service and asked to sit on panel for best practices. He has been asked to make a video futher the discussions made during the conference.
- f. Compliancy Commission: want more input from states. Future reports will include training and information sessions held. State council members should send a note to Commissioner Orzalli about any outreach efforts so he can report it; Superintendent Quinlan-Zhou mentioned that she spoke at the Superintendents’ Meeting about MIC3.

VI. Public Comment

- a. None

VII. Discussion and Next Steps

- a. Jessica Foley reported that the change in erroneous language for the State Statute is in process
- b. Commissioner Orzalli requested to be invited to the Veterans Services Officer training to brief them on the compact.
- c. Christine mentioned the MCAS change and that the waiver form has been removed from the website. It is still within the guide on the website until we have some time to revise the guide, but she did not want to pull down the whole guide since it has other pertinent information within it. Tom Moreau mentioned that there is a graduate council addressing more permanent solutions for districts since it is now a local determination. It is a very active project. Districts must codify the graduation requirement – discussed competency requirement and graduation requirement. The council should issue to the districts to give credence to the military students. Districts are in an in-between place. Superintendent Quinlan Zhou will draft a reminder statement for Commissioner Orzalli to sign.
- d. **Capt. Patrick Sullivan** is willing to host the next council meeting in person but virtually is ok as well.

VIII. Adjourn

2:10 p.m.