

**KENTUCKY STATE COUNCIL  
MILITARY INTERSTATE CHILDREN'S COMPACT COMMISSION**

**Draft Minutes**

January 18, 2022 1:00PM EST

Zoom, hosted from the Kentucky State Capitol

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Steven P. Bullard, Commissioner, Kentucky State Council

Called to order at 1:02 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of December 10, 2020 meeting approved as presented. Those present included Commissioner Bullard, Kentucky Department of Education MIC3 Representative Tracy Goff-Herman, Military MIC3 Representative Colonel Lance O'Bryan (Fort Knox Garrison Commander), Command Sergeant Major William Fogle (Fort Knox Command Sergeant Major), Christian County Public Schools Superintendent Chris Bentzel, Dr. Dallas Kratzer (Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs, or KCMA), Stacey Shane (KCMA). State Senator Mike Wilson and State Representative Myron Dossett were unable to attend to due Kentucky General Assembly meetings. Joining late by phone/teams/email were Hardin County Schools Superintendent Teresa Morgan and Fort Campbell School Liaison Officer Melissa Silva, while Fort Knox School Liaison Officer Brenda Weatherington followed up immediately afterwards with her input and was briefed on the meeting by Commissioner Bullard.

**3. NATIONAL OVERVIEW OF MIC3**

Cherise Imai, National MIC3 Executive Director, presented an overview of current national MIC3 programs and reviewed the 2021 Annual Business Meeting, which, for the second consecutive COVID-impacted year, was held virtually in November. Highlights included a keynote address by U.S. Secretary of Education Dr. Miguel Cardona, reports by MIC3 elected officials, committee chairs and ex-officio members, and the installation of new chair Laura Anastasio (Connecticut), succeeding Don Kaminar (Arkansas). She noted the Kentucky Commissioner Bullard has been installed as the new national Compliance Committee chair, which also places him on the Executive Committee.

Bullard added that the MIC3 Compliance Committee meets bimonthly and the Executive Committee monthly, currently by Zoom. He said he looks forward to learning more about MIC3 from a national perspective. From my perspective, said, it's great to see MIC3 taking hold nationally, with almost every state actively participating. We are working towards 100 percent active participation and completion of annual activities. It's a challenge with 50 states but we're very close, he stressed.

He apologized for postponing today's meeting from December, saying December is much preferred because the legislature is now in session and schools are busy with second semester start-up. However, he said, a short-notice Governor's Cabinet meeting came up, driving the postponement. We intend to return to December this Fall, he said. He added that the national MIC3 continues to assess the potential for including the National Guard and Reserves in the MIC3 compact, saying Kentucky favors inclusion, if it can be accomplished

without a significant related dues increase. In the interim, he noted, Kentucky does not distinguish the type of military participation, since National Guard cases are rare and tend to be internal to the Commonwealth. He noted full-time Kentucky Guard personnel do move around the Commonwealth, as they change assignments routinely from east, west and central Kentucky locations. On fairly rare occasions they also take national assignments, though those personnel usually transition to Title 10, or federal, status, which is covered by the compact. He noted the Joint Chiefs of Staff asked for the inclusion of the National Guard and Reserve into the MIC3 compact, as much for perception purposes as anything. The MIC3 National Guard and Reserves Task Force continues to assess extending applicability beyond Title 10 National Guard and Reserve dependents. It's easy on a state-specific level, Bullard noted, but becomes complicated when applying the principle to all 50 states. He noted that Kentucky already includes DOD civilian employees, a best-practice exception to the norm done properly through the General Assembly by adding the exception to the compact through stand-alone legislation versus modifying the compact itself.

#### **4. STATE OVERVIEW OF MIC3**

Bullard said that in Kentucky, per direction of the governor, the KCMA executive director serves as the state commissioner for this national program. Bullard was appointed by the Governor on August 20, 2019. We also are required to have a Kentucky Department of Education representative, which is currently Tracy Goff-Herman. The Kentucky MIC3 State Council was created by the Kentucky General Assembly during their 2008 session, through Senate Bill 68, sponsored by Senator Tom Buford.

Sen. Buford was one of two legislative members of the Kentucky MIC3 State Council, along with State Rep. Myron Dossett. However, Sen. Buford passed away this past summer. He has been succeeded by Sen. Wilson, who is both a Marine veteran and a member of Senate leadership. MIC3 has provided Kentucky a certificate of recognition and MIC3 coin for presentation to Sen. Buford's family. Bullard is coordinating with Sen. Wilson for a presentation, most likely coming in the summer during the Joint Interim Committee period. That way both Senate and House members can be present.

Bullard said Kentucky paid our annual dues on July 8, 2021. Payments are due by September 30 annually. They are paid through the Department of Military Affairs, as KCMA has no budget function. This year's amount was \$9,432, based on K-12 dependents of military personnel assigned. Our last annual meeting was in December 2020, but we're still well within the fiscal year window, he said. Bullard submitted his mandatory annual Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest forms on January 10, 2022.

He said that MIC3, which ensures smooth transfer to new school districts, is very effective here in Kentucky. We have a great partnership with Kentucky Department of Education and our DODEA school liaisons at Fort Knox and Fort Campbell. All elements are going well, he briefed. Our MIC3 State Council membership is full, and cases are at a minimum, with one case thus far this current fiscal year. That case involved the Thompson Family, which transferred into Fort Knox in August. The Thompson's child Zoe was wait-listed for Norton Commons Elementary School in Louisville/Jefferson County Public Schools in August 2021 due to their full class; however, she successfully entered school October 1, 2021.

Bullard added that he discovered during the November MIC3 Annual Business Meeting that he had failed to submit Kentucky's National Guard/Reserve Inclusion Position Statement in December 2020. He thought he had, but saw in the new national MIC3 submissions tracking pie chart that it was blank. Checking up, he found he had prepped the email but forgot to hit send. That's rectified now, he said. There was no negative impact because the national assessment remains ongoing, he said.

Bullard praised Fort Campbell and Governor Andy Beshear/First Lady Brittainy Beshear for their execution of outstanding Month of the Military Child videos last April. They all teamed up for an Army-produced video by the Fort Campbell Garrison Command Morale/Welfare/Recreation office, while the Governor and First Lady also filmed a stand-alone version. The videos were lauded at the national MIC3 Annual Business Meeting as the best in the nation. He played them for the group. First Lady Beshear visited Fort Knox schools for Purple Up! Day in April 2021, while Governor Beshear met with out-going Fort Knox Commanding General MG John Evans in July 2021 and attended the Fort Knox Change of Command in August 2021. First Lady Beshear was set to participate in Green Beret for a Day training with Fort Campbell's Fifth Special Forces Group in August 2021, but heavy rains that day forced cancellation. She is tentatively scheduled to join the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division for a similar day of training in June 2022.

Bullard asked both Fort Campbell and Fort Knox to share their calendars with him, so he might be able to recruit the Governor and/or First Lady for more visits this year. COL O'Bryan said that one opportunity could be the Van Voorhis Elementary School groundbreaking ceremony, tentatively set for March 22d, 2022 at 11 a.m. He also discussed the recent DODEA grant to Hardin County Schools, which was supported by KCMA, the MIC3 State Council, and others. It was requested, he said, because the Garrison realized that Hardin County Schools have a military-connected student population exceeding 20 percent. Brenda Weatherington followed up by email right after the meeting to say that the Hardin County Schools' FY21 DODEA Military Connected Academic Support Programs (MCASP) federal grant award is for \$750,000 over a five-year period. Melissa Silva from Fort Campbell followed up immediately after the meeting to say she will share their CY2022 calendar of events as soon as possible.

## **5. OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **7. OPEN DISCUSSION**

Bullard briefed the council on actions to date for the unrelated but complimentary Kentucky Purple Star Schools' program. Bullard and Tracy Goff-Herman are now officially co-chairs of program's board, which is officially managed by the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services' Prevention and Programs Branch and their program director, Steve Cambron. Purple Star Schools is an independent program created by a fellow MIC3 state commissioner, Pete LuPiba of Ohio. It has gained DOD support and is rapidly being adopted by states around the nation, 32 states at last count. This program recognizes schools and communities that show a major commitment to serving students and families connected to our nation's armed forces. Programs include awards/recognition ceremonies/educational programs. Monroe County Schools became the first member in September, with several more school

districts pending board approval and many interested. Bullard noted that Kentucky law requires schools to have a Veterans' Day-related program, so this effort feeds right into that. We haven't had a formal kick-off event due to COVID, he said, but may do so this summer. In the meantime, we are moving forward with accepting schools. The official Kentucky website is up and running at <https://www.facebook.com/KYPurpleStarAward>. We're looking to get a promotional video by the Governor and First Lady in the near future. He sent a wealth of information to council members by email, and encouraged them to educate their communities about the program.

**8. NEXT MEETING**

December 2022, date to be determined

**9. ADJOURN**

1:35 p.m.