



KENTUCKY STATE COUNCIL MILITARY INTERSTATE CHILDREN'S COMPACT COMMISSION

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STEVEN P. BULLARD
Commissioner

TO: Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)

FROM: Brigadier General Steven P. Bullard, USAF Retired
Commissioner, Kentucky State Council

DATE: July 8, 2021 (covers time period 1 July 2020-30 June 2021)

SUBJECT: 2021 Annual Report on Kentucky MIC3 State Council (<https://mic3.net/state/kentucky/>)

PURPOSE: To provide an annual report summarizing the Commonwealth of Kentucky's State Council activities, to include membership and key points of contact

Activities of the State Council

MIC3 Annual Conference (October 1-2, 2020; virtual)

Kentucky State Council Commissioner Gen. Bullard attended the annual conference via Zoom teleconference. In early 2020, the Commissioner was reassigned to the Communications Committee and has been an active participant. Gen. Bullard intends to participate in person at the 2021 MIC3 annual meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas this November. Gen. Bullard briefed Kentucky MIC3 commissioner members that anyone associated with MIC3 may attend, not just commissioners, and urged our Fort Campbell and Fort Knox liaisons to consider attending.

State Council Annual Meeting (December 10, 2020; virtual)

The State Council conducted its annual meeting on December 10, 2020 through Zoom video teleconference due to the ongoing COVID crisis. In Kentucky, per direction of the governor, the KCMA executive director serves as the state commissioner for this national program. Gen. Bullard noted 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.

Participants reviewed the 2020 MIC3 case load for Kentucky, which included a transferred 8th Grade Student not permitted to take advanced math class after first being inappropriately assigned to Math 8, a school registration issue for a family transferred to Fort Knox this Spring, and a request for an "Honors" graduation certificate for a Fort Knox-area student recently transferred in from Europe but lacking two mandated classes not offered at the DoDEA school system in Europe (Vicenza High School, Italy). All were resolved to everyone's best satisfaction. Gen. Bullard noted that Kentucky MIC3 completed a letter of support for the Hardin County Schools DoDEA Military Connected Academic Support Programs (MCASP) federal grant application on April 14, 2020. The DODEA school counselors noted that their continuing challenges remain ensuring sustained DoDEA funding and the implementation and tracking of a Military Student Identifier. Those issues are continually worked on the federal side of DODEA, but Kentucky MIC3 stands by to support, as needed.

Kentucky MIC3's current focus will be to plan and carry out a "Purple Up" celebration day, by virtual means with the Fort Knox and Fort Campbell school districts in April 2021, with potential participation (video or interactive) with possibly the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, First Lady, Commissioner of Education, or other entity. We will start initial coordination on options right away, he said. The idea was brought up that on our "Purple Up" Day perhaps we could light up the Capitol and/or Governor's Mansion in Purple – we'll float it for consideration; no idea if it's logistically feasible, Gen. Bullard said. We also discussed the potential of filming a MIC3 video for Kentucky with Governor Beshear and military families. Gen. Bullard noted the Governor's Communications Office liked the idea when he recently brought it to their attention for consideration. The Communications Director, Crystal Staley, said she will help facilitate it. A strong product could be used on the national MIC3 website and the KCMA website.

Due to COVID, we're still not sure when in-person meetings may resume, so the video option may be the only realistic one for April 2021. Gen. Bullard said he continues to attend the monthly MIC3 Communications Committee meetings, which is where the video idea originated. MIC3 is looking to highlight the best state videos at their 2021 national conference, said Cherise Imai, national MIC3 executive director, who participated in the meeting and gave an update on the national program. We discussed the ongoing MIC3 study of potential inclusion of the National Guard, which appears likely but is still being reviewed and evaluated for impact on dues and workload. Gen. Bullard noted that here in Kentucky we treat Guard and Reserve personnel as if they were included, though cases are rare, and no one questions the difference. Our position, he said, is that inclusion of the National Guard should not affect national dues, and if so, then very minimally, since the associated burden will be so minimal. It would be a far easier "sell" to state governments that way, with their many budget challenges. Next year's meeting will hopefully be in person, in Frankfort, with a video option. Date will be in early December but will not be established until the Fall, once calendars are back to normal and options are better defined, Gen. Bullard said.

Supporting Legislation

No MIC3 related legislation was considered by the 2021 Kentucky General Assembly. However, Gen. Bullard briefed the House and Senate Veterans, Military Affairs and Public Protection Committees on the status of the MIC3 program during his annual KCMA activities updates, both in the Fall of 2020 and during the session in February 2021.

Visit to Fort Campbell

In March 2021, Gen. Bullard visited Fort Campbell for their 101st Airborne Division Change of Command and took the opportunity to visit the DODEA school system, meet with school liaison officers Melissa Silva and Tayranette Johnson-Williams, and the principal of the school system.

Month of the Military Child

A major highlight of our year was the completion of two videos and a Governor's proclamation honoring April's Month of the Military Child. In a huge success story, early this year I mentioned to one of the Fort Campbell DODEA school liaisons, Melissa Silva, that we would like to work with Fort Campbell to possibly get video of soldiers and families to support this initiative. She immediately said you need to talk to our MWR director, Stacye Downing, and linked me right to her. Stacye said we have a new professional videographer on staff and want to do something very similar, so let's partner, rolling support specialist Lora Delgado into the effort.

We came up with the concept of filming Governor Andy Beshear talking to the importance of military families, focusing on support for military children and the MIC3 concept. Fort Campbell would film comments by the Garrison Commander and film military children talking about their experiences. We would then combine our efforts into a final video by Fort Campbell. The end result was phenomenal. First, shortly before filming his portion, Governor Beshear called me directly and asked if he could include his wife, First Lady Britainy Beshear. Absolutely! Together they filmed a stand-alone long version that the Governor's Office placed on their social media. We also filmed shorter versions for editing for inclusion in the Fort Campbell film, which worked beautifully. The final products were outstanding, and were used by the Army, the Governor's Office, and MIC3 at the national level.

- Governor and First Lady Beshear's video
 - Link – https://youtu.be/BA_sQDHvb5k
- Army approved joint Fort Campbell-Governor/First Lady video
 - Link – <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=771687410212902>

Kentucky First Lady Britainy Beshear, at our invitation, visited five Fort Knox DODEA schools on April 23, 2021 in celebration of the Month of the Military Child. She flew down from the Capitol City of Frankfort by Kentucky Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. The visit was a resounding success and was documented by numerous local media organizations.

We also completed a Governor's Month of the Military Child Proclamation, honoring April 2021.

Annual State Dues Assessment

Kentucky received its Fiscal Year 2022 dues assessment for membership in the MIC3 on May 1, 2021, in the amount of \$9,432, invoice number FY22-001KY, and submitted it for payment, per Governor-directed memo, to the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs. At the Commission's 2018 Annual Business Meeting an increase in the annual dues formula was voted on and approved by a majority of the members. The current dues formula for FY22 is outlined in the Compact Rules, Chapter 200, Sec. 2.103 (<http://www.mic3.net/assets/rules-book-edits-20190905.pdf>). Payments are due by September 30, 2021. Payment in full was processed by the Department of Military Affairs on July 7, 2021 and mailed to MIC3 on July 8, 2021.

Administrative Requirements

Gen. Bullard completed and submitted to MIC3 his mandatory Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest statements on January 6, 2021.

FY21 Kentucky MIC3 Cases

- 8th Grade Student not permitted to take advanced math class after first being inappropriately assigned to Math 8
 - Took Algebra I at previous school prior to transfer; requested Algebra II
 - Fort Campbell family, transferred to post in March 2019
 - Upon request through Fort Campbell School Liaison Office, student was reassigned from Math 8 to Geometry, but Algebra II class already full with higher priority high school students

- School registration issue for a family transferred to Fort Knox this Spring
 - Selected residence to get children into a specific public school, but were told upon trying to register the children that they could not attend that school even though their home address is zoned for that district
 - Successful resolution through Fort Knox School Liaison Office
- Request for an “Honors” graduation certificate for a Fort Knox-area student recently transferred in from Europe but lacking two mandated classes not offered at the DoDEA school system in Europe (Vicenza High School, Italy)
 - This situation is not covered by the MIC3 compact - the receiving school in Kentucky is not mandated to alter their Regular or Honors Diploma graduation requirements to match the sending DODEA school’s requirements
 - School notified it may consider either waiving requirement or working with Vicenza High School in Italy for a reciprocal diploma
- We received a challenging case of a very unhappy military spouse whose husband transferred to Fort Knox in late April 2021, resulting in high school graduation difficulties for their son, who is completing his junior year
 - The soldier in question is on recruiting duty for the Army with U.S. Army Recruiting Command Headquarters, Fort Knox, and just completed a lengthy “remote” assignment in the associated non-military area California community
 - The spouse contacted Gen. Bullard personally through the Capitol switchboard, frantic with concern over the welfare of her son
 - In short, the options necessary for the student to graduate from the DOD Education Authority (DODEA) Fort Knox High School appeared more difficult than the student could handle, for multiple reasons
 - The “sending” school in California, Walnut Valley HS, is not near a military installation and was not familiar with the compact, with no military student experience, and initially rejected our requests for consideration of a reciprocal diploma under the compact, a common DODEA practice in which the student meets sending state (California) requirements versus DODEA requirements
 - At the suggestion of Cherise Imai, we reached out to my California MIC3 counterpart, who brought in the California Department of Education and the Southern California (San Diego) military MIC3 liaison
 - We joined the Walnut Valley HS senior staff in a Zoom meeting with representatives from California, Fort Knox schools and the Council of State Government’s MIC3 office to brief them on the compact and the options before us, including the legal requirements for issuing a reciprocal diploma under the national compact
 - Great meeting, entirely positive
 - Walnut Valley HS agreed to work closely with Fort Knox HS to ensure all legal standards are met, allowing the student a manageable workload over his senior year to earn a reciprocal diploma from his California school

- A military family in June 2021 received a transfer from North Carolina to Fort Campbell, and faced the challenge that Kentucky wanted to move their rising 1st grader back to Kindergarten because of state requirements
 - The issue was that while they completed Pre-K at a DODEA school and began Kindergarten there, they transitioned to homeschool to handle the workload with two young kids versus virtual learning
 - Since it is not compulsory to complete Kindergarten in North Carolina, they had no curriculum to utilize with their youngest son
 - The mother designed with help a program of learning for the remainder of the year
 - In a great outcome, the Fort Campbell DODEA school counselors facilitated a decision to validate the family's North Carolina home school program (with attendance log)

Advancing Federal Outreach

We completed the MIC3 Finance Committee's survey on MIC3 billing and administrative support practices, and a MIC3 Training Committee survey on associated materials and resources. In January 2021, Gen. Bullard spoke with Don Kaminar, national MIC3 chair, on how to incorporate the National Guard and Reserve into the compact for coverage, in relation to an ongoing MIC3 study of this issue. The Joint Chiefs of Staff asked MIC3 in the Fall of 2019 to add the National Guard and Reserve, as much for perception purposes as anything (equal/fair coverage). The current national compact only covers "active duty" military families. While National Guard and Reserve families are rarely impacted by military transfers, it does happen. Personnel sometimes accept tours as liaisons to active duty military installations. The Kentucky Army National Guard also routinely moves full-time personnel to various areas of the Commonwealth, as the Guard maintains over 50 sites/armories statewide. Gen. Bullard's suggestion was two-fold:

- Develop a national model legislative "fix" for state legislators/governors to follow
- Ensure we adjust the dues structure to keep annual dues revenue neutral

Frankly, it does not cost anything to add the National Guard and Reserve, but the annual dues are based on number of personnel covered and, without adjustment, would result in a doubling of annual dues for many states.

In January 2021, Cherise Imai reached out to Gen. Bullard to ask him to serve as the Tier 2 Group Facilitator for the MIC3 Annual Meeting in November 2021. Per Cherise, under the strategic plan, the Executive Committee (EXCOM) is rescoping our Tier Groups, which provide the opportunity for military dependent impacted member states to discuss compact related issues, concerns, and develop solutions. (see guidance) The intent is to launch the "new" program in November. The Tier Groups consists of 4 groups by the number military dependents (see matrix) – Tier 1 being the highest impacted, and Tier 4 being the lowest impacted. Facilitators are appointed for a 1-year term. Each Tier Group will meet during the Annual Business Meeting, and the EXCOM/leads will develop the topic(s) for discussion prior to the meeting.

Facilitator role and responsibilities include:

1. Serve as the lead for the Tier Group
2. Prepares the agenda with the EXCOM and National Office
3. In conjunction with/National Office; schedules meetings, performs roll call, and takes meeting minutes
4. Procedures - Meetings are governed by Robert's Rules
5. Submits meeting minutes to the National Office
6. Submits a year-end report to the National Office

Military Student Identifier Update

As part of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirements, the U.S. Department of Education requires school districts to identify students who are armed forces family members. This information is a voluntary submission by parents and guardians. Kentucky's Student Information System (KSIS) includes a "Military Connections" tab to track guardian data for those who are active duty military personnel. A student is considered military connected if a parent or guardian is a member of the armed forces on active duty or serves on full-time National Guard duty. KDE continues to promote the importance of this data collection to public schools and districts.

Information related to the collection of this data can be found at Kentucky Department of Education's website: [KSIS Data Standard – Census \(Section G: Military Connections\)](#)
[Sample Data Collection Form for Local Districts and Schools](#)

State Council Membership

As required by Kentucky Revised Statutes 156.730, the following membership includes:

- Brigadier General (USAF Ret.) Steven P. Bullard, State Council Commissioner
- Commissioner Jason E. Glass, Kentucky Department of Education
- Colonel Cletus J. King, Garrison Commander of Fort Knox, Kentucky
- Senator Tom Buford, Kentucky General Assembly
- Representative Myron Dossett, Kentucky General Assembly
- Ms. Mary Ann Gemmill, Superintendent of Christian County Schools
- Ms. Teresa Morgan, Superintendent of Hardin County Schools
- Ms. Tracy Goff-Herman, Academic Program Manager, Kentucky Department of Education

Kentucky Key Points of Contact

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