

Massachusetts Council of Military Interstate Commerce Commission Agenda
Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2020
11:00 am –12:00 pm

Department of Veterans Services- Via WEBEX

Attendees:

Members:

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

Ken Gordon, Massachusetts State Representative, 21st District

Cheryl Poppe, Acting Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Veteran's Services

Becky McFall, Superintendent, Lincoln Public Schools

Tom Moreau, Assistant Secretary of Policy and Planning, Designee for Secretary of Education James Peyser, Massachusetts Executive Office of Education

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

Lt COL Charles Silvanic, Jr., Deputy Mission Support Group, Hanscom Air Force Based and DOD Representative

CAPT Sean Hannigan, Commanding Officer USCG Base Cape Cod.

Ex-Officio Members:

Tanya Rioux, State Family Program Director, Military & Family Support Center, MA National Guard Family Program

Other Guests:

Cherise Imai, Executive Director, MIC3

Paul Moran, Chief of Staff, Massachusetts Department of Veteran's

M. Deacon, Counsel, Massachusetts Department of Veteran's Services

Anthony Preston, Public Relations, Massachusetts Department of Veteran's Services

Laurel Wironen, School Liaison, Child & Youth Educational Services, Hanscom Airforce Base

Agenda:

I. Welcome and Introductions

a. **Acting Secretary of Veterans Services – Cheryl Poppe**

b. **New Superintendent Representative – Becky McFall**

c. **New Coast Guard Representative – CAPT Sean Hannigan**

RADM Orzalli had everyone introduce themselves for attendance and acknowledgment of new members of the state council. The three new representatives stated their interest with the goals of MIC3 and were happy to serve on the council.

II. Vote to Approve Minutes from Nov 22, 2019 Meeting

Minutes were approved with Abstentions from the new council members not present at the previous meeting.

III. Discuss Activity since November 2019 Meeting

a. **Annual Report to Compact**

The annual report was submitted in June 2020 and had three components. The State Council met in November 2019 meeting the requirement for an annual meeting. The Governor issued a Proclamation designating April as the month of the Military Child. The plan to present it at Bedford HS on March 31st was cancelled due to COVID 19 restrictions and it was presented to the Bedford School Board via Zoom on 28 April 2020. The annual report updated the members of the state council for the National website.

b. Cases – Christine Cowen

March – a Military Special Education case and the acceptance of an old IEP. There was a similar case last year. The compact does not have jurisdiction and the case was referred to colleague in SPED unit.

July – RADM Orzalli answered an inquiry about which data is collected on military families.

August – A family inquired about preschool and were notified that MIC3 does not cover preschool.

October – State DOE and RADM Orzalli answered an inquiry with information that US Coast Guard Auxiliary is not covered by MIC3. A school district inquired about MIC3 and how military members must voluntarily self-identify as military parent/guardian.

November – Answered an inquiry about reservist data from representative from Fort Devens Reserve.

We have had multiple Special Education cases that have not only come up in Massachusetts which is also seen nationally. The Special Education Laws give the students more leverage than MIC3. These inquiries can be addressed by referral to the appropriate DOE division. RADM Orzalli explained that he informs the National Office about all cases. Based on the report at the MIC3 Annual Business meeting more than 50% of the cases that do come into states are not covered by the MIC3 compact. Cherise Imai, executive director of MIC3 at national level, stated that about two thirds of cases coming to National were not covered by the compact.

IV. Ex-Officio Members

RADM Orzalli summarized ex-officio membership to the State Council as helpful relationships for those that can support the compact as well as those the compact supports

V. Review of MIC3 Annual Business Meeting (ABM)

Conducted virtually

a. Election Results

RADM Orzalli noted that he cannot run for position at MIC3 national level unless the state council approves him to do so. The current national MIC3 chair was re-elected.

b. New Policy Statements

RADM Orzalli serves on Finance Committee at national level. Two new policies were put in place to manage financial assets. An investment policy and a reserve policy were approved at the Annual Business Meeting

c. New Training Materials

RADM Orzalli shared the new material through email prior to members of the council.

d. National Guard and Reserve Task Force Results

- i. A Task Force was established to address the inclusion of the guard and reserve in MIC3 beyond the current eligibility criteria. RADM Orzalli had Cherise Imai – National Executive director of MIC3 - explain this to the council. Cherise explained the schools usually do not know the difference between active and reserve. She mentioned that the compact only covers active duty and those activated reservists under Title 10. She explained Guard and Reserve inclusion became an issue because Utah changed their compact to cover them in MIC3. The MIC3 compact took a deeper look by forming a task force to see if the compact could or should be extended to include the Guard and Reserve. Kentucky and Arkansas extended coverage through legislature outside of the

MIC3 compact statutes. A final report that was presented at the October 2020 ABM with recommendations that were to be shared with the state councils. The recommendations were:

1. Support the expansion of the compact to include the Guard/Reserve
2. Changes to the compact would require state legislation changes.
3. There are two approaches – either change the compact language in all 50 states as was done in UTAH or pass external legislation as was done in Kentucky and Arkansas.
4. All states would have to change their statutes for a change at MIC3 National level.

There might be a need to increase dues if include more students covered. The executive committee sent recommendations out yesterday, but no decision was made. State representatives should come back in November 2021 to vote on next steps but need consensus.

State Representative Ken Gordon will look at in the proposed law. Ken mentioned that it may not be difficult to pass a change, but it would have to be done by January. As the vote to proceed at the National Level – the change to Massachusetts law would not be necessary until the next legislative cycle.

e. Dues

\$2700 annual dues – based on Military affected student population numbers provided by the Department of Defense. They currently do not include the Guard/Reserve.

f. Bias Training

There was a panel discussion about racial bias and how it is impacting military students in communities.

VI. Public Comment*

Superintendent McFall commented that not all schools know about the compact. RADM Orzalli noted that not all districts will see military students. Christine explained how the Educational Stability Team conducts trainings and is developing modules that include MIC3. Also, information gets distributed in commissioner’s update as appropriate about military connected students and MIC3. Discussion about definition and how the schools identify military connected students.

Tanya Rioux asked question about remote learning, working from home, and hybrid with deployed military. Brief discussion ensued about not having an alternative in place for those that work or are self – supporting during the pandemic. Superintendent McFall mentioned that there was some allowance for paid leave, but that is not a long-term solution. Tanya mentioned one family as example of a nurse and spouse is in military, where there is no solution without a family financial impact. Christine mentioned pods in community such as YMCA that provide safe space for remote kids to go do schoolwork while parent works. Tom also confirmed this, and it was through EEC working with DESE and Governor.

VII. Discussion and Next Steps

Tom Moreau will follow up on wording of data request for Military Families to self-identify to meet requirements of ESSA as well as comparison numbers for MIC3 compact.

Representative Gordon and Tanya Rioux will look at proposed language to include Guard and Reserve in coverage for MIC3.

Tom Moreau will follow up with Representative Gordon on budget line item

Next meeting will be in Spring and most likely virtual.

VIII. Adjourn