



NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE COVERAGE TASK FORCE (NGRTF) MINUTES
Friday, February 14, 2020

Table with 4 columns: Category, Name, Title, and Role. Rows include PRESENT (Kathleen Berg, Brian Halstead, Ben Rasmussen, Terry Ryals, Hal Stearns), STAFF (Cherise Imai, Beth Workman), and EXCUSED (Darcy Benway, Rosemarie Kraeger, Lindsey Dablow).

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. Chair Kathleen Berg (HI) called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM EST. Roll call was conducted by MIC3 Communications Associate Beth Workman and a quorum was established.

ITEM 2 – AGENDA AND MINUTES

2. Commissioner Ben Rasmussen (UT) motioned to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hal Stearns (MT). Motion carried. Commissioner Brian Halstead (NE) moved to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stearns. Motion carried.

ITEM 3 – OLD BUSINESS

3. Review NGRTF Mission and Tasks – Chair Berg reviewed the purpose which is to collect and analyze relevant data and make a recommendation on whether the protections for military connected students that are already in place for the children of the reserve component service members in Title 10 status should be extended to cover children of members in other statuses as well. She added a preliminary report was due on March 31, 2020 to the Executive Committee.

4. Chair Update – MIC3 Chair Don Kaminar (AR) Response Letters – Chair Berg reviewed the response letters from Commission Chair Kaminar to the National Guard Bureau and the Air Force Enlisted Officer Association on their advocacy for a change to the Compact Language. She reminded members hard copies of the letters were provided to the NGRTF by Mr. Brian Garrett of Utah at the October 23, 2019 meeting held in Colorado Springs at the Annual Business Meeting.

5. Although the letters were addressed to Commission Chair Don Kaminar, they were not sent directly to him nor to the National Office. Copies were forwarded electronically to him in late November by Chair Berg. The response letter included referenced the NGRTF and Chair Berg as a point of contact, as well as a request for data. Members supported the response letters and contents.

6. Chair Update – Public data sources: NG/Reserve children by state conflict with MCEC data – Chair Berg reported the National Office researched publicly available data sources on a state

by state count of National Guard and Reserve children. One report referenced 80,000 while a second report reported half a million children. In sum, Chair Berg stated a common number is 2 million military children, with 1.5 million school-aged between 5-18 years old. About half of them are those in the reserve and guard services. She concluded current data is not available at this time and the National Office would be contacting the National Guard Bureau for more information.

7. **Military Spouse Testimony: Evidence of Typical Misunderstandings** – Chair Berg referenced a case provided by Mr. Brian Garrett of Utah which entailed a misunderstanding of compact coverage by a reserve family when they transferred to Ohio, then moved to Minnesota. The service member was an air technician, a civilian DOD employee, who was required to be a member of the Air Reserve as a condition of his civilian employment. The parent stated she brought the case to former MIC3 Executive Directors, Norm Arflack and Steve Hogan. The family transferred to Minnesota and the school provided the free tutoring requested however this type of support is not covered under the Compact. As a result, the family's expectation of the Compact was it covers more than it actually does.

8. **Sample Responses: NGRTF October 2019 Data Collection from Commissioners** – Chair Berg reported different states have specific challenges and Commissioners that responded addressed any challenges without extending coverage to the National Guard and Reserve. Members agreed the Commission should be briefed on useful information and data. The Military Officers Association of America has a forum focused on social-emotional supports however this is beyond the Compact's scope. Members agreed the Commission's response should be framed by what the Compact actually covers.

ITEM 4 – NEW BUSINESS

9. **Updated Contact Information on Utah's Brian Garrett** – Chair Berg reported Commissioner Rasmussen sent an email that Mr. Brian Garrett left Zions Bank and is with Utah's state veteran organization. She added Mr. Garrett was contacted by other states and he referred to the NGRTF, asking them to wait for the recommendation.

10. **NGRTF Survey for Commissioners: Question Review and Development** – Chair Berg stated she informally queried the Commission prior to the ABM on the National Guard and Reserve - only 10 of 51 Commissioners responded. The new formal survey is intended to collect information from 51 Commission members. Members reviewed and revised the draft survey. The next draft will be reviewed at the next meeting. **(OPEN ITEM)**

ITEM 5 – NEXT STEPS

11. **Future Meeting Dates** – Members agreed to meet before March 10th to finalize the survey questions. Ms. Workman will disseminate a Doodle Poll for Members.

ITEM 6 – ADJOURNMENT

12. With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 4:04 PM EST.

Respectfully submitted by,
Cherise Imai
Executive Director