

Interstate Compact Support Successful Education Transitions for Military Dependents in Japan

by the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission



June 9, 2023 – In May, the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) provided Compact training and briefs in Japan at Yokota Air Base (AB), Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Army Camp Zama, and Yokosuka Naval Base. Sponsored by Colonel Andrew Roddan, Commander of the 374th Airlift Wing for Yokota AB, the trip included meetings with military leadership and personnel, parents, U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) Kanto region school administrators and counselors, and Pacific Region school liaisons. "The Compact helped my daughter as she moved high schools in both Arkansas and Japan – so I know it works," Col Roddan stated. "Parents and schools need to know what the Compact does and how it helps kids - so my airmen and women can focus on their mission."

In 2006, the U.S. Department of Defense (USDOD) Office of Personnel and Readiness, in cooperation with the Council of State Governments (CSG) and National Center for Interstate Compacts, drafted the *Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (ICEOMC)* to address some of the educational challenges transitioning children of military families encountered such as: eligibility, enrollment, placement, and graduation. The Compact applies to public schools across the 50 states, District of Columbia, and through a joint memorandum of agreement, DODEA schools worldwide.

Despite the Compact's longevity, raising awareness among parents and schools remains a challenge. "If we had known (about the Compact), we could have avoided our daughter retaking a second state history course – we could have asked for help," reflected one parent following an evening session. The Commission is highly aware of the constant turnover of personnel and the growing need, and works with the USDOD, member states, and other partner organizations to inform on the rules and regulations. MIC3 Executive Director Cherise Imai met with Brigadier General Jesse Friedel, Deputy Commander, Fifth Air Force; Yokosuka, Atsugi, and Zama's command leadership; DODEA Pacific Chief of Staff, Todd Schlitz and East Superintendent, Dr. Jaqueline Ferguson. They identified opportunities to support families and highlighted the importance of service school liaisons in the effort.

"Families with school aged dependents need to contact (their school liaison) prior to moving to their next assignment," emphasized Joshua Fly, Yokota AB School Liaison, "we provide information to help them plan and prepare." Fly and his service counterparts worldwide help ease moves by sharing information, along with a list of other resources and supports to help ease the move.

Overall, it was a productive visit and the Commission expressed appreciation for the opportunity to hear from both parents and schools about their challenges firsthand. "We're grateful for Col Roddan and the 347th Yokota AB staff for their support in coordinating the visit," said Ms. Imai.

Link to slideshow: <https://youtu.be/eyDlq6T14B4>

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About MIC3:

Founded in 2008, MIC3 is the governing body of the ICEOMC. Members include representatives from the 50 states and District of Columbia who work together to ease educational transitions of military connected students attending public schools and Department of Defense schools worldwide. The Commission is responsible for promulgating and enforcing rules to implement the ICEOMC. The Compact covers school aged children of active-duty members of the uniformed services, National Guard and Reserve on active-duty orders, commissioned officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United States Public Health Service, and members or veterans who are medically discharged or retired for one year. The Compact also covers children of members who perish on active duty for a period of one year following their death.

For more information or to request training on the Compact, visit www.mic3.net or email mic3info@csg.org.