



Tier Group 3 Meeting Notes
June 22, 2023
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET

PRESENT	Benjamin Rasmussen Laura Anastasio Barbara Clemmer Davina French Brian Halstead John “Don” Kaminar J. Clarke Orzalli Mike Price Kristin Windham	Utah Commissioner Connecticut Commissioner Pennsylvania Commissioner North Dakota Commissioner Nebraska Commissioner Arkansas Commissioner Massachusetts Commissioner Michigan Commissioner Mississippi Commissioner	Tier Group 3 Facilitator
EXCUSED	Teresa Ferenczhalmy Felicia Gonzales Brian Murphy Tony Trongone	New Mexico Commissioner Nevada Commissioner Indiana Commissioner New Jersey Commissioner	
STAFF	Cherise Imai Lindsey Dablow Christina King	Executive Director Training & Operations Associate Communications Associate	

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:01 PM ET by Tier Group 3 Facilitator and Utah Commissioner Ben Rasmussen.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

2. Training and Operations Associate Lindsey Dablow conducted roll call. As this is not a formal committee of the Commission, per Robert’s Rules, a quorum is not necessary. Nine (9) of the Tier Group 3 states were present.

ITEM 3 – AGENDA

3. Commissioner Rasmussen reviewed the agenda and noted time would be provided at the end of the meeting for Commissioners to discuss topics other than those on the agenda.

ITEM 4 – NEW BUSINESS

4. **Commission Data Collection Discussion** – Commissioner Rasmussen asked staff to provide Members with the timeline and previous feedback related to data collection by the Commission. For several years, the Commission reviewed the Data Collection clause in the Compact statute and the Compact Rules. In 2022, the Rules Committee completed a full review of the Compact Rules. That review prompted the Rules Committee to ask if states supported repealing Compact Rules, Chapter 200, SEC. 2.102. The consensus was to repeal the Rule. Commission’s General Counsel agreed the Rule could be repealed; however, due to the language being in the Compact statute the Commission would need to develop a data collection model to meet the statute requirement.

5. Commissioner Rasmussen opened the floor for discussion. Commissioner J. Clarke Orzalli (MA) stated the voluntary nature of how military-related data is collected is not consistent. He noted collecting data that couldn't be used was pointless. Commissioner Rasmussen asked for the Members feedback on the data points suggested by the standing committees. Commissioner Orzalli responded he was amenable to collecting data that could be used by the Commission. Commissioner John "Don" Kaminar (AR) supported the sentiments expressed by Commissioner Orzalli. He noted the Commission needed to have a clear purpose and use for any data it collects.

6. Commissioner Rasmussen explained his interpretation of the data requirement outlined in the Compact statute did not require the Commission to collect data. He noted the supplemental language in Rule, SEC. 2.102 created the requirement so the Commission could repeal that provision and end the obligation. He noted Utah would be able to report the data points suggested by the standing committee.

7. Commission Chair Laura Anastasio (CT) stated having Commissioners report case and inquiry data for their state to determine efficacy of the Compact would not provide the information needed to make the determination since many cases are resolved at the local level and Commissioners are not aware of the numerous times schools or families utilize the Compact without interference from a third party like the school liaison or Commissioner. She agreed, with previous comments, schools should not be burdened with additional reporting requirements. Commissioners Kaminar and Rasmussen supported Chair Anastasio's comments.

8. Ms. Dablow informed the Group of a proposed Rules amendment to SEC. 2.102 sponsored by the Commissioners from Washington and Rhode Island that would alter the annual reporting requirement allowing the Commission to determine what data to collect and when it would be reported to the Commission. The proposed language would make the reporting requirement flexible.

9. **ABM Cost Analysis: In Person vs. Virtual Meeting** – Commissioner Rasmussen asked Ms. Dablow to provide background information related to the cost of hosting an in-person or virtual meeting. She reminded Commissioners following the 2022 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) official attendees were surveyed and asked if they supported alternating the ABM virtually or in person every other year. Out of those surveyed, 25 Commissioners and two (2) proxies responded to the survey. Twelve respondents supported alternating the ABM meeting between virtual and in person every other year. Eight (8) did not support alternating the ABM and seven (7) indicated they had no preference. A consensus was not reached. The Executive and Finance Committees requested Tier Groups discuss this item to provide Members with an additional opportunity to provide feedback. Ms. Dablow reviewed the 2022 – 2023 ABM Cost Comparison document.

10. Commissioner Rasmussen opened the floor for discussion. Commissioner Orzalli stated the cost is the cost so the Commission needs to determine if they are doing their due diligence by hosting an in-person ABM or rotating in person with virtual. He noted the importance of the in-person meeting for new Commissioners and the intangible benefits that provides. Commissioner Mike Price (MI) agreed and noted the advantage for Commissioners to focus on the meeting, free from distractions at work, and the ability to read body language during an in-person meeting. He suggested distributing a request for proposal on certain components of the meeting, i.e., audio visual. Commissioner Price stated the state department he works for would be willing to pay for him to participate in the ABM and other Commissioner's departments may be willing to do the same instead of using Commission funds.

11. Commissioner Rasmussen questioned why the Commission reimburses Ex-officio Representatives since the ex-officio organizations do not pay dues. Ms. Dablow responded that was a practice the Commission has always adhered to. Commissioner Rasmussen asked if venues in major cities or cities with airport hubs have been considered and Ms. Dablow responded staff is gathering cost estimates for those scenarios, but the initial cost analysis shows the hotels in those cities tend to have higher facility rental rates and room lodging rates which would negate the convenience and cost savings

of airfare. She noted this course of action was under consideration by the EXCOM and Finance Committee.

12. Chair Anastasio asked for each Member present to voice their vote on this agenda item so the EXCOM and Finance Committee would understand the Commission's guidance on this issue. For the record, members indicated their preference for the meeting format:

- Nebraska: Commissioner Brian Halstead (NE) acknowledged the value of an in-person meeting for new Commissioners but indicated the need to meet in person every year was not necessary to conduct the business of the Commission.
- Pennsylvania: Supported holding the ABM virtually every other year. Commissioner Clemmer suggested strengthening the onboarding of new Commissioner through the mentoring program and onboarding process with virtual meetings to introduce them to seasoned Commissioners they could connect with.
- Mississippi: Supported holding the ABM virtually every other year. Commissioner Windham noted she was appointed during the pandemic and an in-person ABM was not held that year, but the support and information provided to her through training and the onboarding process provided by headquarters created a foundation for her in the Commissioner role.
- Massachusetts: Supported holding the ABM virtually every other year if the Commission could ensure new Commissioners were effective without holding an in-person meeting every year. He noted the Commission could hold smaller meetings at the National Office to welcome new Commissioners and introduce them to Members of the EXCOM or connect them to Commissioners in adjacent states to give them a point of contact related to the Commission.
- North Dakota: Commissioner French supported the sentiments of Massachusetts. She explained if classes could be provided in a manner that was beneficial for Commissioners and it would not prompt an increase in the member states annual dues then meeting every other year was acceptable.
- Arkansas: Commissioner Kaminar acknowledged the usefulness of meeting in-person every year but admitted the cost of the ABM, other Commission expenses, and the rate of inflation would eventually force the Commission to consider an annual dues increase. He said for those reasons, if the Commission had the ability to host an effective virtual meeting it should be done. Commissioner Kaminar supported choosing less expensive locations to host the in-person ABM.
- Michigan: Commissioner Price supported the reasoning of Commissioner Kaminar.
- Utah: Commissioner Rasmussen supported holding the ABM virtually every other year given cost. He suggested holding the in-person ABM in years when leadership positions within the Commission would change to allow Commissioners to be in person if any of the positions are contested.
- Not present: New Mexico, Nevada, Indiana, and New Jersey
- Commissioner vacancy: Idaho

13. **DSLO Space Force State Statute Inclusion** – Commissioner Rasmussen asked ED Imai to update the Members on the DoD Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) initiative to update all state statutes defining or referencing the branches of service to include Space Force. She noted the Compact statute covers Space Force. ED Imai reminded Members the Commission has a legal advisory stating Space Force is included in the Compact. She stated Rules is considering an amendment to Rules Chapter 100, SEC. 1.101, (w) that would include Space Force in the definition of “Uniformed Services.”

14. Commissioner Halstead asked if the Compact statute was being amended in some states and she confirmed it had been. Commissioner Halstead stated the Compact statute was not to be amended and ED Imai agreed but noted the change was made without the Commissioner or headquarters awareness. Once headquarters was made aware of the issue DSLO was contacted and told to stop. Currently, the goal of the Commission is to educate the DSLO on the Commission's processes, so they

are not circumvented going forward. ED Imai asked Members to contact headquarters if they are informed their state's Compact statute is being amended or referenced to ensure there is no conflict.

15. Commissioner French asked if there was a point of contact or office within the Department of Defense Commissioners could direct their state legislative liaisons to. The Commissioner could request the legislative liaison contact the Commissioner if there are any proposed changes to the Compact statute. ED Imai stated the initiative was part of the DSLO and directed Commissioners to contact the DSLO Regional Liaison for their state. ([Link to Military OneSource's Military State Policy Source Regional Liaison Information](#))

ITEM 5 – OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

16. **Commission Annual Deadlines** – Commissioner Rasmussen reminded Members Friday, June 30, 2023, was the end of fiscal year 2023. He outlined the items each state must submit by the end of the fiscal year to be in compliance with the reporting requirements outlined in the Compact.

ITEM 6 – ADJOURNMENT

17. There being no further discussion, Commissioner Rasmussen adjourned the meeting at 2:48 PM ET.