



Volume 9, Issue 3

September 2026

Meet the Commissioner



Tremekia Priester
South Commissioner &
Training Committee Chair

Chair Priester has served as the MIC3 South Carolina Commissioner since 2021 and chaired the Training Committee in 2026. Chair Priester also works as a Program Manager in the Office of Educational Choice & Family Engagement within the South Carolina Department of Education.

What is one thing you wish that schools and uniform-connected families better understood about the Compact?

That the Compact is a specific tool designed to create an even playing field, ensuring military children are neither penalized nor uniquely privileged but simply given an equal opportunity to matriculate successfully throughout their educational journey.

What advice would you offer to commissioners seeking to strengthen Compact implementation in their state?

To strengthen the implementation of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) at the state level, commissioners must operate as proactive educators as opposed to reactionary regulators in efforts to becoming sound structural builders.

In what ways has your perspective shifted over the course of your service to the Commission since your appointment?

My perspective has shifted over the past five years from seeing this role as regulatory and compliance, to more of a role that allows me to build a community.

[Read More](#)



Teresa Ferenczhalmay
New Mexico Commissioner &
Tier Group 3 Facilitator

Commissioner Ferenczhalmay has served as the MIC3 New Mexico Commissioner since 2019 and as Tier Group 3 facilitator for 2026. Commissioner Ferenczhalmay also serves as the STARBASE Holloman Academy Director.

What is one thing you wish that schools and uniform-connected families better understood about the Compact?

That the Compact is to help families work through school transitions and keep students on

track for graduation. Often times, families just assume the worst scenario or talk with friends and don't receive correct information and become frustrated with a school transition and give up. Once you connect with a School Liaison or the Compact Commissioner for your current state, your problem should be resolved in the best possible way for your student.

What is one Compact-related initiative, partnership, or collaboration in your state that you are particularly proud of?

The New Mexico School Liaison team is amazing at supporting each other and working through cases with a quick response at the local level.

What advice would you offer to commissioners seeking to strengthen Compact implementation in their state?

Don't give up!! Reach out to other Commissioners asking for best practices or advice on how to set a program up in your state. The MIC3 National Office team is also a valuable resource to a new commissioner.

[Read More](#)

Did you know?

Did a PCS move cause your student to miss tryouts for a sports team at the receiving school?

Compact Rule, SEC. 6.102 Eligibility for Extracurricular Participation

(a) State and LEA shall facilitate the opportunity for an eligible military children's inclusion in extracurricular activities, regardless of application deadlines, with consultation with the state high school athletic association, to the extent they are otherwise qualified. Application deadlines include tryouts, summer conditioning and other coach or district prerequisites.

[Rules Book](#)

August Training Roundup

Over the last few weeks, the Commission has provided Compact-related information at multiple events.

August 4: Compact 101 HQ Training (Virtual)

The Commission provided Compact 101 Training to school liaisons and school personnel from Maryland, Mississippi, and New Mexico.

August 6: Compact 101-201 Hybrid — Colorado

The Commission provided a Compact 101-201 Hybrid presentation to Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8 personnel, more than 60 school counselors and district administrators attended.

August 18: Coast Guard Work-Life Supervisor Training — Virginia

The Commission provided a Compact 101 Training to Coast Guard Family Resource Specialists at the Coast Guard Work-Life Supervisor Training in Norfolk, VA.

Ex-Officio Corner

MCEC

MCEC Upcoming Webinars:

DoW

September 8th: How School Liaisons and MCEC Support Military-Connected Kids

Join us to learn how School Liaisons and MCEC partner to support students and families through every transition, and how that connection gets built, one school, one family, one move at a time.

September 9th: Nurturing Math-Confident Preschoolers

Discover how everyday moments of early childhood can build strong foundations for lifelong math learning and confidence. Learn why early math skills are critical for later success and how to build positive mindsets and math identity from the start, in classrooms and at home.

September 15th: Helping Military-Connected Teens Develop Independence

This webinar is for parents who want to close the gap between "resilient" and "ready." We'll cover the practical skills teens need before they're managing their own schedules, budgets, and decisions without you in the next room. We'll talk through what independence really looks like, how to hand over responsibility without handing over chaos, and how to start early enough that it doesn't all happen in one panicked summer before move-out.

September 16th: Coping: Developing Healthy Coping Strategies

Join us today to explore how change doesn't always show up as tears or tantrums — sometimes it looks like silence, attitude, or a kid who suddenly "doesn't care" about things they used to love. For military-connected children, transition is a constant, and the behavior underneath it isn't always easy to read. This webinar helps parents understand what's actually happening beneath the surface during times of change, how to tell the difference between a phase and a red flag, and how to respond in ways that help kids feel steady even when everything around them isn't.

September 30th: Reconnecting After Deployment

From Military One Source Blog Brigade:

Back-to-School for Military Teens by Lizann Lightfoot

Check out this blog post that discusses how the Compact serves to protect uniform-connected students from being penalized by frequent moves.

OneOp Upcoming Webinars:

September 10th: Support for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Survivors

This webinar explores the unique barriers Deaf and Hard of Hearing survivors may face when seeking help, including communication access, isolation, systemic inequities, and limited accessible resources. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of Deaf culture, culturally sensitive engagement strategies, and best practices for communication and advocacy when working with these communities.

September 23rd: Connecting Service Members and Spouses to Education and Career Benefits

This webinar will introduce participants to Project Patriot Pipeline and its designated Paths, highlighting opportunities for credentialing, SkillBridge participation, direct hiring, and other career advancement resources. Participants will also explore the GI Bill, an education benefit administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Through an overview of eligibility and benefits, attendees will gain practical knowledge to support informed decisions about education, career planning, and long-term financial well-being for military-connected individuals and families.

October 8th: Creative Approaches to Build Confidence in Clinical Practice with Children

This webinar is for professionals seeking to build confidence in working with children, particularly for adult-focused/Family Advocacy Program (FAP) staff who may be less familiar with the current clinical needs of children. The discussion will focus on developing key skills for professionals who may work with children.

Coming home from deployment is its own transition, not just an ending. Children may greet a returning parent with excitement, hesitation, or a mix of both, and every family renegotiates routines, roles, and closeness in the weeks that follow. Join us for a session grounded in current research on military family reintegration, with practical strategies to help your family reconnect after deployment.

To register for upcoming webinars, [click here!](#)

October 13th: Blended Retirement System and Survivor Benefit Plan Basics

This webinar examines key decision points in military retirement planning, including an overview of the Blended Retirement System (BRS) and the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), and equips service providers to guide informed, client-centered conversations. Participants will explore continuation pay, lump sum elections, and Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) participation, and resources for military financial service providers to enhance client counseling and education.

For more information and to register for upcoming webinars, [click here!](#)

NMFA

NMFA's 2026 Military Teen Experience Report Now Available!

On August 4, 2026, the National Military Family Association (NMFA) hosted Breakfast & Belonging: Understanding the Military Teen Experience, in partnership with National University's Sanford Harmony. The event brought together military family advocates, educators, and community leaders, including MIC3 Virginia Commissioner Designee Dan Dunham, who participated in a panel discussion, to discuss findings from the 2026 Military Teen Experience Survey, which gathered responses from more than 800 military-connected teens and young adults.

2026 Military Teen Experience Report

Upcoming Events

Committee Meetings

C&O — September 9
EXCOM — September 17
Training — September 22
Finance — September 23

Compact 101 Training

September 28 at 12:00 PM ET
October 6 at 8:00 AM ET

Annual Business Meeting — October 14-15 in Indianapolis, IN

Registration is open, click [here](#) to register!



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