



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**MOLLY M. SPEARMAN**  
*STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION*

Meeting Minutes

Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission

Meeting Friday, October 23, 2015

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Blue Marlin Restaurant

1200 Lincoln Street

Columbia, SC

**I. Welcome & Invocation**

Dino Teppara, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

Invocation was provided by Keith Martin, BG (PA) Retired, Military Child Education Coalition

**II. Introduction of Council members and Guests**

**The following council members were in attendance:** Dino Teppara, Esquire, MIC3 State Chair; Beth Shwedo, Military Family Member; Ann Gordon, School Liaison Officer, Ft. Jackson.

**The following council members or their representatives were absent:** Senator Paul Campbell; Senator Darrell Jackson; Mike Brenan, State Board of Education Vice-Chair; Dr. Traci Young Cooper, State Board of Education Chair; General George Patrick, II, SC Military Base Task Force; Dr. Debbie Hamm, Richland School District Two Superintendent; Representative Joseph Daning; and Susan Glaser, Governor Haley's appointee.

**Representatives from the SC Department of Education's Public Information Office** included Wanda Davis, Ombudsman and Military Family Education Liaison for the State's MIC3 Commission.

**School Liaison Officers and other invited guests in attendance included:**

Kim Wiley, SLO, Marine Corp Air Station – Beaufort

Dr. Keisha McCoy Wilson, SLO, US Army/Fort Jackson  
Tina Paulson, Marine Corps/Regional School Liaison Officer  
John F. Kennedy, SLO, Shaw Air Force Base  
Bunnie Ward, SC Education Oversight Committee  
Christopher Gerry, SLO, Jt. Base Air Force, Charleston  
Bill Dukes, Air Force veteran, current Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army  
Keith Martin, BG (PA) Retired, Military Child Education Coalition  
Dan Ahern, Fort Jackson Director, Family, Morale, Welfare  
Lara Chamberlain, Spouse of BG Paul Chamberlain, Shaw Air Force Base  
Susan McPherson, Columbia Chamber of Commerce, Director of Military Affairs  
Mark Bounds, PIO, Lexington/Richland School District 5  
Scott Nahrwold, Ft. Jackson  
Kay Barlow, Midlands Education and Business Alliance  
Lt. Col. Vinnie Garabino, Recruiting Battalion Commander, Ft. Jackson, March 2  
Success

- III. **Update on Latest Honor Flights:** Bill Dukes, current Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army and retired Air Force veteran, provided attendees with an update on the latest honor flights. He indicated the program originated in November 2008 and this year they have arranged for their 20th honors flight from this region. He praised the community for donations received for this effort to salute our military veterans as \$200,000 came from corporate sponsors and \$1 million came from individual contributions. Mr. Dukes stated that currently over 2,000 veterans have been able to participate in these honor flights. He stated that in spring 2016 that he hopes to announce another flight because funding for this effort has been received. He requested support from attendees to help identify the World War II and Korean War veterans to go on these flights.
- IV. **MIC3 Update:** Dino Teppara, MIC3 State Chair, provided the group with an update on the Military Interstate Compact Commission and advised attendees that he and Tina Paulson, SLO, Marine Corps/Regional School Liaison Officer would be attending the upcoming national convention for MIC3 in Seattle, Washington. He also discussed the handouts found in attendee packets on the MIC3 toolkit and discussed a January 2016 webinar be developed with the knowledge and expertise of all state school liaison officers. This webinar would be shared with appropriate school and district administrators to enhance knowledge of the MIC3 throughout the state.
- V. **2015 EOC report on Educational Performance of Military Connected Children:** Bunnie Ward of the SC Education Oversight Committee updated the attendees on the 2015 Educational Performance of Military-Connected Children report compiled in March 2015. Ms. Ward stated this report was mandated in accordance with SC Act 289, Part V, which passed in 2014. The report considered the impacts facing military children in areas of attendance and academic performance, as well as the high school graduation rate. Ms. Ward discussed a few of the findings of the report such as 1) data about military connected students were insufficient at both the national and state

levels, 2) when compared to DOD data, military connected students are underreported in SC, 3) military connected students in SC middle and high school have higher absence rates than military connected students in elementary school, and 4) military connected students achieve higher levels on state assessments than non-military peers. Regarding the issue of under reporting of military connected students, Ms. Ward stated the Defense Manpower Data last collected indicated 23,000 military children enrolled in SC public schools, while South Carolina Department of Education's actual number reported was only 7,800.

- VI. **Military Child Education Coalition Report:** Keith Martin, BG (PA) from the MCEC made a presentation on "The Case for a Comprehensive Support Plan." Mr. Martin discussed the MCEC's involvement in the concept to draft and adopt MIC3 Compacts in all 50 states. He indicated in a meeting with the State Superintendent of Education, the MCEC proposes 1) to provide professional development training for educators and school administrators, student peer group training and military parent training, 2) proposes that more research needs to be done on the military student identifier data to help account for military connected students. He asked that SC standup and stand out in this opportunity by having a partnership with the SCDE.
- VII. **Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Update:** Dan Ahern, Fort Jackson Director of Family and MWR discussed the issue of the youth centers on base where they are averaging 130 teens per day attending their no-fee programs. He stated currently they provide bus transportation and have on hand 25 regular size buses and several mini buses to facilitate this program. For their Teen Resiliency Training Program, the last meeting had 17 teens attend.
- VIII. **March 2 Success Program Update:** Lt. Colonel Vinnie Garabino, Recruiting Battalion Commander at Ft. Jackson, provided a presentation to attendees on the March2 Success Program. This program is an online, self-paced course designed to improve a student's performance on standardized tests while enhancing their math, science and English skills. Lt. Col. Garabino advised this was a free program and several of the program's goals included helping students with the ACT/SAT test, help with state mandated assessment examinations, help with taking college entrance exams or trade school entrance tests, providing help in applying for a job and assistance with taking a military entrance test. He emphasized the program is not designed to be used as a military recruiting tool.
- IX. **Midlands Education and Business Alliance Update:** Kay Barlow, Community and Parent Education Director of MEBA, briefly introduced herself and her organization as a resource and support stakeholder in our collective outreach to military families.
- X. **MIC3 Group Discussion:** MIC3 State Chair Dino Teppara advised all attendees that the MIC3 will now consider holding three meetings per year, to include spring, summer, and fall meetings. Mr. Dukes graciously agreed to host the fall 2016 meeting.

On the issue of identifying those SC public high school students who will be joining

the military immediately after graduation, Mr. Teppara indicated that it was a recommendation of the State Superintendent of Education, Molly M. Spearman, that we provide these students at graduation with red, white, and blue honor cords to recognize them as students headed into the military following graduation in 2016. He noted that our current estimates state we have about 2,000 high school students going into the military after graduation every year.

Mr. Teppara also shared with all attendees the need to share with all District Superintendents, Principals, and Educators the upcoming 2016 Department of Defense Junior Science and Humanities Symposium scheduled for Friday, January 29, 2016 at the Russell House on the USC Columbia campus.

- XI. Adjournment – There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Teppara adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.