

# A COLLABORATION OF SUCCESS



## New Partnership Brings National Training Opportunities for MIC3

By Richard Pryor, Communications Associate

**“Our success has really been based on partnerships from the very beginning.”**  
— Bill Gates.

In 2017, more than 630,000 children had parents on active duty, 75 percent of which were under the age of 12. School-age children in military families often face challenges related to frequent relocation.

The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3), has been working to combat this issue and others by bringing states together to ease school transitions, create awareness and provide training and technical assistance.

When a state joins MIC3, a representative from that state is appointed to a governing commission responsible for enacting rules to implement the compact. The Commissioner guides MIC3's work nationally and in their respective states. A major focus of the Commission for the last several years has been training, both within the Commission and externally.

MIC3 has made great strides in this area in recent years through Commissioner training at its Annual Business Meeting (ABM), by providing in-state training by state councils and school liaison officers, and holding briefings and presentations at national conferences.

MIC3's training initiatives were further bolstered last year when they teamed up with the Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA), a proven organization championing the cause for military students and their families.

MISA, one of the original ex-officio members of MIC3, approached the Commission with an offer to further expand the scope of its training and support, at no cost, to engage and educate audiences across the country.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was drawn up and approved by the Executive Committee in August 2017.



“This idea came about when MIC3 was still in its infancy, at this stage only about around 20 states had enacted the Compact,” said Kyle Fairbairn, executive director of MISA.

“As our districts were already covering similar topics to the Compact we felt they would be the perfect schools to host training sessions.”

The first session was hosted at Bellevue Public Schools in Nebraska on October 18, 2017, spearheaded by Kate Wren Gavlak, the MIC3 Commissioner from California and the past chair of the Commission.

Additional training sessions have taken place in California and New Jersey.

“The hosts know the surrounding districts and who to invite, therefore increasing the chances for attendance,” said Gavlak. “The training opportunities provided through the MIC3/MISA partnership have been well attended and we have received very positive feedback from attendees.”

The host state commissioner is invited to co-present at the training allowing them to focus on issues specific to that state.

**“As a high school counselor I learned a lot, thank you so much.”**

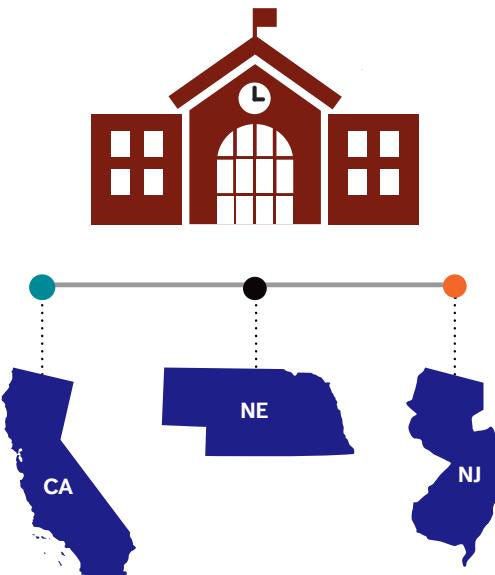
“The majority of school districts that serve the children of military families attended and the feedback I received is that they all found the training extremely useful,” said Brian Halstead, the MIC3 Commissioner for Nebraska. “Everyone was very appreciative of the assistance from MISA in helping to facilitate this training.”



*\*Attendees at the training sessions have included.*



## Joint Training Sessions since October 2017



*\*MISA estimates that approximately 90% of school districts with military connected children attended the sessions*

Following the success in Nebraska, this training model took to the road with the next stop in southern California, one of the most highly military impacted states in the country. Hosted at the Fallbrook Union Elementary School District on February 7, 2018, this session had representation from over 90 percent of schools with military connected children in southern California.

**"It was extremely helpful to have another state's perspective and I loved hearing the presentation from Brian."**

The training was broken down into morning and afternoon sessions; the morning session is directed at school related personnel with the afternoon aimed at military personnel and parents. This format has enabled topics to be more targeted to the audience.

"The training was created to help state commissioners reach schools in specific areas and brief the details of the Compact. The majority of state commissioners have full time jobs and may not necessarily have the time or resources to dedicate to training in their states," said Fairbairn.

North Hanover Township District, New Jersey on May 1, 2018 was the venue for the third training session. There were 9 schools represented with between 6 and 80 percent military connected students, representing over 90 percent of military connected students in that area.

There was also a large contingent of military representatives that attended the afternoon session.

"The partnership with MISA has enabled MIC3 to reach more school staff with the consistent message that ensures smooth transitions for our military families," said Rosemarie Kraeger, MIC3 Commission Chair. "We appreciate this shared vision and joint training efforts on behalf of our military children."

**"Thank you so much for your honest and knowledgeable presentation! This will be extremely helpful with our upcoming move this summer,"** said one parent.

Future training sessions are already scheduled for Kansas and Missouri in September and Texas in December. As we move forward with this program we can do so with the knowledge that it will only continue to improve.

### Richard Pryor



*Richard is the Communications Associate with MIC3. He has worked with MIC3 since August 1, 2010 when the National Office was established. Originally from England, Richard came to the USA in 2010 after serving for 24 years around the globe in the British Army*

### John Kaminar



*John "Don" Kaminar is the Commissioner for the state of Arkansas and the current chair of the Training Committee. Don is a veteran of 30 years service in the U.S. Army, serving with distinction both at home and abroad.*

**"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."**

*- Helen Keller*

