

**American Legion Auxiliary
National Security
Programs Action Plan
2017-2022**

The National Security Program promotes a strong national defense by supporting Service members and their families.

What can you do?

Support the emotional and social needs of active, reserve and transitioning military Service members and their families.

Ideas:

Members

- Let your unit know of any military families or businesses that should receive a Blue Star or Gold Star Banner in recognition of a service member's service.
- Provide support on a spouse-to-spouse or family-to-family basis, such as to a family member, neighbor or another military family. Refer to the ALA Military Family Readiness Action Guide for specific suggestions of the type of support military families may value. Contact school counselors for helping military children.
- Provide assistance to service members and their families directly affected by current conflicts. Get to know your local Legion Service Officer, they may be able to help you in your efforts.
- Become more informed about issues affecting a military family's home life and the resources available to help, such as PTSD, TBI, domestic violence, financial literacy and other issues.
- Refer service members with financial assistance needs to the American Red Cross Armed Forces Call Center at 1 (877) 272-7337.
- * Serve as a mentor in the career eMentoring network. Promote military spouse job fairs and volunteer to help. Write an editorial about why military spouses make good employees.
- Sign up for the Legion's Legislative Action Alerts, and be sure to act on the ones regarding a strong national defense and affecting current and transitioning service members and their families.
- Donate blood.

Ideas:

Units

- Support active-duty military families by working with an installation Family Readiness Group (FRG). Contact the Family Readiness Center on your nearby military installation for more information.

- Support reserve and transitioning service members and families by working with a returning National Guard or Reserve unit or an individual transitioning service member or family.

o Note: Units may find service members and families independently or by working with the service member transition programs of the U.S. Department of Defense, the military service branches or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Members may provide support on a spouse-to-spouse or family-to-family basis, such as to a family member, neighbor or another military family to which they come in contact. Refer to the ALA Military Family Readiness Action Guide for additional information and specific steps. 2017-2022 Programs Action Plan: Page 75

- When a service member or military family you're working with is relocating to a different community, help identify an ALA unit in the new community and make introductions.
- Greet service members and families as they deploy and/or return from a deployment. Support your local ROTC and JROTC with dinners and recognition.
- Work with a Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program office of a local military unit (Reserve or National Guard) or a state National Guard Joint Force Headquarters to show patriotic and moral support at Yellow Ribbon events; offering hospitality, refreshments or children and youth activities; or making presentations on Auxiliary resources and services to family members of returning service members. Get the junior members involved by starting a Youth Preparedness Program.
- If you're near a military installation, a U.S. Department of Defense policy makes it easier for you to get and provide information about our services and programs to service members and military families. Refer to the How to Support Troops and their Families on Military Installations for additional information and specific steps.
- Organize a Welcome To Our Hometown event to welcome military families that are moving or transitioning out of the military to your community. Refer to the Welcome To Our Hometown Action Guide for additional information and specific steps.
- Coordinate for community donations and assemble service member care packages and family member support packages. Collect supplies for emergencies as well as the information where to go in their new community.
- Work with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) and refer a survivor or caregiver for specialized support. Refer to How to Collaborate with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors for information and specific steps.
- Help to implement a Legion-sponsored job fair and/or co-host a Legion Family information table at a U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation-sponsored job fair.
- Seek grant funds to help military spouses start small businesses. Promote participation among military spouses at www.theveteranmarket.com.
- Create a scholarship fund for military spouses learning a new skill.

Ideas:

Department

- Include information about military spouse job fairs in your department newsletter.
- Provide information about what Legion Service Officers do and sign members up to help them.
- * Assist military spouses in getting and maintaining employment.
- Assist units and members with specific idea plans outlined above.
- * Support the National Security programs of The American Legion.
- Donate blood.
- Support your Legion department and posts to raise funds for Operation Comfort Warriors to provide supplies to wounded service members.
- Encourage members to complete Community Emergency Response Training (CERT). Refer to How to Train for FEMA's Community Emergency Response Teams for information and specific steps.
- Follow the Legion's POW/MIA Empty Chair Resolution 288 for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings.
- Work with your ALA and Legion department legislative committees around topics that ensure a strong national defense and support current and transitioning servicemembers and their families.
- If your Legion department has a job fair in conjunction with a department meeting, ensure military spouses are included (or a special track is offered for them), assist in promoting the job fair and staff an information table at the job fair.

National Security Reporting*

Year-End Reports

Annual reports reflect the program work of units in the department, and may result in a national award for participants if award requirements are met. Each department National Security chairman is required to submit a narrative report to the division National Security chairman, plus copy the National Security chairman. Members and units should follow their department's protocol and deadlines.

*For deadlines and contact information, please consult the Annual Supplement to the 2017-2022 Programs Action Plan or visit the National Security Committee page on the national website, www.ALAforVeterans.org. As part of your narrative report, please include answers to the following questions:

- Did members organize Welcome To Our Hometown events? If so, what was most successful? Did they have any challenges?
- What types of national security activities and/or projects were done at units in your department that weren't near a military installation?

National Security Awards

Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! It helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Just three simple steps to add your part to our national success story:

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- 1) Please follow instructions as you fill out the National Report and Awards Cover Sheet found in the awards section of the Programs Action Plan.
- 2) Provide details/examples about the activity as outlined in the award's materials and guidelines section.
- 3) Submit as indicated in the Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan.

National Report and Awards Cover Sheet, deadlines, and National Security committee contact information may be found on the National Security committee page on the national website, www.ALAforVeterans.org.

National Awards **Deadline: June 1, 2022**

Send award form to National Central Division Chairman

Also Email copy to National Security Chairman Diana Sirovina
dsirovina@icloud.com

A. Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit National Security Program

- Award: Citation Plaque
- Presented to: One unit in each division (5)
- Materials and guidelines:
 - o Entries must be typewritten in narrative form
 - o Include pictures and newspaper articles

B. Department Award: Dorothy Pearl Best Department National Security Program

- Award: Citation
- Presented to: One department in each division (5)
- Materials and guidelines:
 - o Each entry must be typewritten in narrative form.
 - o Include pictures and newspaper articles.

C. Department Award: Military Spouse Mentor

* This award is related to Academy Women's eMentoring program.

* Award: Citation Plaque

* Presented to: One department

* Materials and guidelines:

- o For the department having the highest percentage of members actively participating in military spouse eMentoring and connected to military spouses.

- o Entries must have a list/spreadsheet of participating members

- o Each department's participation percentage will be determined by the national chairman. The percentage will be calculated based on the number of reported participating members who are serving as an eMentor, as reported by the eMentoring program staff, divided by the department's membership total as of June of the current administrative year. (For example: if 250 of the 300 members listed on the department's submitted spreadsheet were connected to military spouses, in a department with 5000 members, the percentage would be 5 percent).

Note: All Department entries must be sent by the Department Chairman to their national division chairman postmarked by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above. Members should follow instructions from their department.

Additional Resources You Can Use

1. www.ALAforVeterans.org resources on the National Security program page:

- American Legion Auxiliary Military Family Readiness Action Guide . A training package is also online for departments and units. It includes an instruction sheet, PowerPoint presentation and script, sample agenda, 2017-2022 Programs Action Plan: Page 79

Resources:

1. Learning exercises, pre- and post-session survey, satisfaction survey and sample marketing text.

- Welcome To Our Hometown Action Guide

- ALA-Operation Homefront Action Guide

- ALA-USO Action Guide

2. Instructional How To sheets found on the National Security program page on the national website:

- How to Welcome Home Separating Service members

- How to Identify Veteran and Service member Families who are In Need of Assistance

- How to Support Troops and their Families on Military Installations

- How to Train for FEMA's Community Emergency Response Teams

- Planning a POW/MIA Remembrance Service
- How to Collaborate with the American Red Cross' Service to the Armed Forces
- How to Collaborate with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
- How to Collaborate with the Hiring Our Heroes Military Spouse eMentor Program

3. Legion Resources:

- Blue Star and Gold Star Banner: www.legion.org/troops/bluestar
- Disaster Preparedness and Response for American Legion Posts:
 - www.legion.org/documents/pdf/talarc_disaster_preparedness.pdf
- Family Support Network: www.legion.org/familysupport
- Operation Comfort Warriors: www.legion.org/troops/operationcomfort
- POW/MIA: www.legion.org/powmia
- Legislative Action Alerts: <http://capwiz.com/legion/home/>

4. Follow Us on Facebook:

- ALA National Headquarters: www.facebook.com/ALAforVeterans
- The national National Security Committee Facebook group, search “ALA National Security”

5. Your national, National Security committee members (see National Security program page on the national website or Annual Supplement for contact information)



Department National Security Awards:

Billie Bubala POW/MIA Award

- To the Unit with the best National Security Program. This will be a single plaque to be presented each year.

Department Chairman Personal Awards

- To the Unit for the best overall year-end narrative of 300-500 words on their National Security Program.
- * To the District for the best overall year-end narrative of 300-500 words on their National Security Program.

Department Awards

Deadline: June 1, 2022

Send to Department National Security Chairman

Jennie Maune

28999 Leisure Lane

Brookville, IN 47012

or

jenniemaune@hotmail.com

