

National Security



2018-2019

National Security Action Plan

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What is this program, and why do we have it?

The National Security program maintains and promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military servicemembers and their families. The National Security program and the 2014-2019 ALA Centennial Strategic Plan: Maintaining and promoting a strong national defense by supporting servicemembers and their families helps us build brand loyalty (Goal 5) among a target membership population (Goal 1) while keeping us focused on our mission.

What can you do?

1. Support the emotional and social needs of active, reserve and transitioning military servicemembers and their families.

Ideas to Support

- Wear red on Fridays to “Remember Everyone Deployed.”
- As a gesture of appreciation for local service members’ military service, decorate your community with yellow ribbons. Encourage others to do the same.
- Provide support on a spouse-to-spouse or family-to-family basis, such as to a family member, neighbor or another military family.
- Provide aid to servicemembers 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.
- Support active-duty military families by working with an installation Family Readiness Group (FRG) or an individual military family.
- Support reserve and transitioning servicemembers and families by working with a returning National Guard or Reserve unit.
- Follow up periodically with the service member and/or military family you are supporting.
- When a servicemember 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.
- Let your unit know of any military families or businesses that should receive a Blue Star or Gold Star Banner in recognition of a servicemember’s service.
- Greet servicemembers and families as they deploy and/or return from a deployment.

- Organize a Welcome To Our Hometown event to welcome military families that are moving or transitioning out of the military to your 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.

2. Support the National Security programs of The American Legion.

Ideas to Support

- Complete a Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) course. Refer to How to Train for FEMA's Community Emergency Response Teams for information and specific steps.
- Build and/or help a neighbor build an emergency preparedness kit and plan.
- Get involved in the Citizen Corps Council (www.ready.gov) to ensure citizens are prepared to respond to natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, blizzards and manmade disasters and emergencies.
 - ❖ Junior members can get involved in and/or start a Youth Preparedness Program in their community.
- 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 servicemembers and their families.
- Donate blood. Assist with a local blood drive.
- Help identify candidates for The American Legion's National Firefighter of the Year Award.
- Help identify local candidates for The American Legion's National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award.
- Have a training exercise in your post home to give training in first aid, CPR or other types of emergency skills.
- Join with your Legion post to host a POW/MIA ceremony on National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Commemorated annually on the third Friday of September.
- Follow the Legion's POW/MIA Empty Chair Resolution 288 for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings.
- Host a remembrance event for any MIA servicemembers who have been identified from your area.
- Work with Legion posts to honor ROTC and JROTC cadets by having dinners and recognizing their accomplishments.
- Support your Legion department and posts to raise funds for Operation Comfort Warriors to provide supplies to wounded servicemembers.
- 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.

3. National Security Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements:

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:

- 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.

A. **Unit Award:** Most Outstanding Unit National Security Program

- Deadline: June 1, 2019
- Send to national division chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above.

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

- Deadline: June 1, 2019
- Send to national division chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above.

C. **Department Award:** Military Spouse Mentor

- Deadline: June 1, 2019
- Send to national division chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above.

The National President's Award for Excellence (NPAAE) will be awarded to those who emphasize the national president's focus through the American Legion Auxiliary's programs. See criteria and guidelines in the NPAAE cover sheet located under "General Information" in the 2018-2019 Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan.

National Security Reporting:

Mid-Year Reports

Mid-Year reports reflect the program work of units in the department and are intended as an opportunity for mid-year correction. Each department National Security chairman is required to submit a narrative report by January 5, 2019 to the division National Security chairman, plus copy the National Security chairman.

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 by May 15, 2019 to the division National Security chairman, plus copy the National Security chairman. Members and units should follow their department's protocol and deadlines.