

National Security

Heroes 4 Heroes: Safety and Sincerity in Service

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

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

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

Ideas: Member

- 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.
- 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.

Ideas: Unit

- 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.

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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

B. Assist military spouses in getting and maintaining employment.

Ideas: Member

- Serve as a mentor in the career e-mentoring network through the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Hiring Our Heroes Military Spouse Employment Program and Academy Women. Current military spouses will be virtually paired with more experienced spouses and/or corporate and career mentors for guidance and support.
- Promote military spouse job fairs in your community and volunteer to help.
- Help staff an information booth about the ALA at a job fair for military spouses.
- Write an editorial about why military spouses make good employees.
- Contact school guidance counselor in your local area and offer to be "on call" for assistance with military children.

Ideas: Unit

- Support military spouse job fairs organized by U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation or The American Legion, or host one in your own community. Encourage local business to participate and hire veterans and military spouses.
- 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.

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

Ideas: Member

- 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.
Note: Remember, new military families in your community may not be familiar with the types of emergencies that affect your area. As needed, help them update their emergency kit and plan.
- 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: Unit

- 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.

Note: Junior members can get involved in and/or start a Youth Preparedness Program in their community.

- Collect supplies for emergency preparedness kits and distribute them in your community.

Note: Remember: new military families in your community may not be familiar with the types of emergencies that affect your area. As needed, help them update their emergency preparedness kit and plan.

- 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.
- 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 MIA service members 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 future military by presenting ROTC and JROTC recognition awards.

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.

- **Unit Award:** Most Outstanding Unit National Security Program
- **Department Award:** Dorothy Pearl Best Department National Security Program
- **Department Award:** Military Spouse Mentor

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 unit is required to submit a narrative report by **December 5, 2018** to the Department 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 unit is required to submit a narrative report by **April 15, 2019** to the Department National Security chairman.



**American Legion Auxillary National
Report and Award Cover Sheet**

Please note, your report will also be viewed as an award entry.

Complete the following if you are applying for a member award. Be sure to give the complete name of the member. The award certificate will be prepared using the information you include below.

Unit #: _____ Full official unit name: _____

Name of state where you are a member: _____

Member Name: _____ ALA member ID#: _____

Nominating Member (if different from above): _____

Nominator's Phone number: (____) _____

Nominator's Email address: _____

National committee sponsoring award: _____

Type of Award: Department Unit Member

Name of the award you are applying for: _____

For a unit award or to submit a year-end unit narrative report, please complete this section. Be sure to give the complete name of your unit. The award certificate will be prepared using the information you include below.

Unit #: _____ Full official unit name: _____

Name of department: _____ Unit

president/chairman (circle one) name: _____

Above listed person's ALA member ID#: _____ Phone number: (____) _____

Email address: _____

For a department award or to submit a year-end department narrative report, please complete this section:

Name of department: _____ Name of

department chairman: _____

Chairman's phone number: (____) _____ ALA member ID#: _____

Chairman's email address: _____

Please see your committee's Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan to determine where to send this form.

Mid-Year Report Form National Security 2017-2018

*Please complete and mail postmarked on or before December 1, 2017, to
Ann Robins, 16106 Hampton Glen Lane, Chesterfield, VA 23832 or email to vanationalsec@gmail.com*

Unit Name & Number: _____ District _____ Zone: _____

Unit Chairman's Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Department of Defense Programs: Describe your Unit's participation in each of the following programs. Include activities, date, location, the total number of volunteer hours (Juniors and Seniors), the number of veterans served, and money spent or donated. Please use a separate sheet of paper, if necessary.

		#Veterans Served	#Volunteer Hours	\$Dollars Spent/Donated
1	Yellow Ribbon Program Describe			
2	Family Readiness Groups Describe			
3	Welcome Home Celebrations Describe			
4	Operation Homefront Describe			
5	Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) Describe			
6	American Red Cross Describe			
7	USO Describe			

Military and Family Support Programs of the American Legion: Describe your Unit's participation in each of the following programs. Include activities, date, location, the total number of volunteer hours (Juniors and Seniors), the number of veterans served, and money spent or donated. Please use a separate Sheet of paper, if necessary.

		#Veterans Served	#Volunteer Hours	\$Dollars Spent/Donated
1	Family Support Program Describe:			
2	Operation Comfort Warriors Describe:			

Blue Star and Gold Star Banner Program: Did your Unit hold an event? Yes _____ No _____
If Yes: #Volunteer Hours _____ Total Money Spent/Donated\$ _____ #Families attending _____
#Blue Star Banners Distributed _____ #Gold Star Banners Distributed _____
#Corporate Banners Distributed _____ #Pins _____ #Coins _____

Describe Events:

POW/MIA Initiatives: Did your Unit participate in National Recognition Day? Yes ___ No ___
If Yes: #Volunteer Hours _____ Total Money Spent/Donated \$ _____

Describe Events: _____

Homeland Security Programs:

Did your Unit participate with the Citizen Corps Program? Yes ___ No ___
If Yes: #Volunteer Hours _____ #Members Participating _____ Total Money Spent/Donated \$ _____

Did your Unit host a CERT Program? Yes ___ No ___
If Yes: #Members Participating _____ #Members Completing CERT Course _____
Total Money Spent/Donated \$ _____

Describe Events: _____

******* ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES *******

Did your Unit adopt a ROTC/JROTC Unit? Yes ___ No ___
If Yes: Did your Unit present medals/certificates? # Medals _____ # Certificates _____
#Volunteer Hours _____ #Members Participating _____ Total Money Spent/Donated \$ _____

Describe Activities: _____

Did your Unit participate in Welcome Home activities? Yes ___ No ___
If Yes: #Volunteer Hours _____ #Members Participating _____ Total Money Spent/Donated \$ _____

Describe Activities: _____

Did your Unit mail product coupons? Yes ___ No ___
If Yes: #Volunteers _____ #Volunteer Hours _____ # Pounds _____ Value of Coupons Donated \$ _____
Total Money Spent \$ _____

Describe Activities: _____

Did your Unit participate in National Military Appreciation Month activities? Yes ___
No ___
If Yes: # Volunteers _____ #Volunteer Hours _____ #Service Members Served _____
Total Money Spent/donated \$ _____

Describe Activities: _____

Did your Unit refer Service Members or Military Family Members to Gateway to Services on the National American Legion Auxiliary website? Yes ___ No ___
If Yes: How many referrals did your Unit make? _____

**Year- End Report Form
National Security
2017-2018**

*Please complete and mail postmarked on or before April 15, 2017, to
Ann Robins, 16106 Hampton Glen Lane, Chesterfield, VA 23832 or email to vanationalsec@gmail.com*

Unit Name & Number: _____ District _____ Zone: _____
 Unit Chairman's Name: _____ Telephone: _____
 Address: _____

Department of Defense Programs: Describe your Unit's participation in each of the following programs. Include activities, date, location, the total number of volunteer hours (Juniors and Seniors), the number of veterans served, and money spent or donated. Please use a separate sheet of paper, if necessary.

		#Veterans Served	#Volunteer Hours	\$Dollars Spent/Donated
1	Yellow Ribbon Program Describe			
2	Family Readiness Groups Describe			
3	Welcome Home Celebrations Describe			
4	Operation Homefront Describe			
5	Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) Describe			
6	American Red Cross Describe			
7	USO Describe			

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		#Veterans Served	#Volunteer Hours	\$Dollars Spent/Donated
1	Family Support Program Describe:			
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Blue Star and Gold Star Banner Program: Did your Unit hold an event? Yes _____ No _____
 If Yes: #Volunteer Hours _____ Total Money Spent/Donated \$ _____ #Families attending _____
 #Blue Star Banners Distributed _____ #Gold Star Banners Distributed _____
 #Corporate Banners Distributed _____ #Pins _____ #Coins _____

Describe Events:

POW/MIA Initiatives: Did your Unit participate in National Recognition Day? Yes ___ No ___
If Yes: #Volunteer Hours _____ Total Money Spent/Donated \$ _____

Describe Events: _____

Homeland Security Programs:

Did your Unit participate with the Citizen Corps Program? Yes ___ No ___
If Yes: #Volunteer Hours _____ #Members Participating _____ Total Money Spent/Donated \$ _____

Did your Unit host a CERT Program? Yes ___ No ___
If Yes: #Members Participating _____ #Members Completing CERT Course _____
Total Money Spent/Donated \$ _____

Describe Events: _____

******* ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES *******

Did your Unit adopt a ROTC/JROTC Unit? Yes ___ No ___
If Yes: Did your Unit present medals/certificates? # Medals _____ # Certificates _____
#Volunteer Hours _____ #Members Participating _____ Total Money Spent/Donated \$ _____

Describe Activities: _____

Did your Unit participate in Welcome Home activities? Yes ___ No ___
If Yes: #Volunteer Hours _____ #Members Participating _____ Total Money Spent/Donated \$ _____

Describe Activities: _____

Did your Unit mail product coupons? Yes ___ No ___
If Yes: #Volunteers _____ #Volunteer Hours _____ # Pounds _____ Value of Coupons Donated
\$ _____ Total Money Spent \$ _____

Describe Activities: _____

Did your Unit participate in National Military Appreciation Month activities? Yes ___
No ___
If Yes: # Volunteers _____ #Volunteer Hours _____ #Service Members Served _____
Total Money Spent/donated \$ _____

Describe Activities: _____

Did your Unit refer Service Members or Military Family Members to Gateway to
Services on the National American Legion Auxiliary website? Yes ___ No ___
If Yes: How many referrals did your Unit make? _____