

# National Security Program Action Plan 2020-2021

**TO:** Unit National Security Chairman  
District National Security Chairman  
Unit President  
District President  
Junior Activities Chairman

## What is National Security:

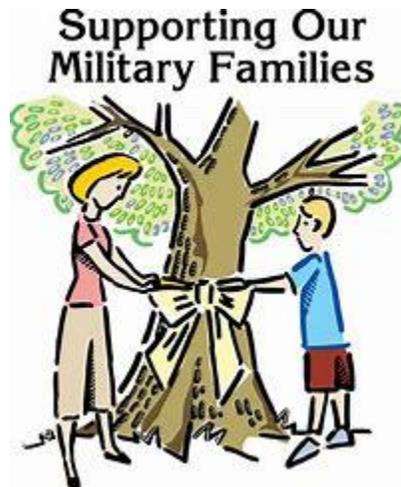
This is a program that maintains and promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting our military servicemembers and their families.



## What can we do as a member and unit:

- If you know any member of a military family or business, make sure that they have been recognized by giving them a blue star banner. Purchase banners for the families of deployed service-members as a gesture of support. Offer help to families by displaying banners to honor those still missing with a POW/MIA Remembrance Service.
- Support for spouses or family's who have military members. (ALA Military Family Readiness Action Guide.)
- Get to know your local American Legion Service Officer, they can help you locate families and help you in your projects.
- Become aware of our veteran's issues: PTSD, TBI, domestic violence, financial literacy and other issues.
- Check to see if there is a USO group in your area and ask what you can do to help

- Greet service members and families as they deploy and or return from a deployment. Hosting warm send-off and welcome-home events for our troops, providing service members with pocket flags, and showing the gratitude of our nation by providing military families with Blue Star Banners. [Download How to Plan a Send-Off or Welcome-Home Event](#) from the National Auxiliary website [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org) ..
- Work with a Yellow Ribbon Program office of a local military unit.



**Assist military spouses in getting and maintaining employment:**

- Serve as a mentor in e-mentoring network
- Promote military spouse job fairs in your community
- Contact you school's guidance counselor in your local area and offer to assist with military children
- Help seek grants to help military spouses start small businesses. ([www.theveteramarket.com](http://www.theveteramarket.com))
- Create a scholarship fund for military spouses learning a new skill

## **Support the National Security programs of The American Legion**

- Complete a Community Emergency Response Training (CERT). These trainings prepare members to act as an emergency response resource in times of natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, and blizzards, as well as during manmade disasters. The Auxiliary's National Security program works collaboratively with the FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Division, in keeping with a standing agreement.
- Sign up for the American 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.
- Collect supplies for emergency preparedness kits and distribute them in your community. New military families may not be familiar with the types of emergencies in your area.
- Have a training exercise in your post home to give CPR or other types of emergency skills.
- Work with the American Legion to honor ROTC and JROTC cadets and also give them recognition awards.
- Support the American Legion in raising funds for Operation Comfort Warriors and help provide supplies to our wounded service members.
- POW/MIA Remembrance Services: The American Legion Family is dedicated to ensuring that America's POW/MIAs be honored and recognized, not just memorialized. American Legion efforts focus on the need to account as fully as possible for those still missing, alive or dead. An important way all Legion Family members create awareness and remembrance for this initiative is through conducting POW/MIA remembrance services at unit meetings and public events. Strong, united support by all American Legion Family members is crucial to bringing all of our heroes home. [Download How to Plan a POW/MIA Remembrance Service](#) from the National Auxiliary website: [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org).



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Stepping up & Celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Department 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's Personal award**

To the Unit that submits to me, Betty Slagle, the best overall year-end narrative 300 to 500 words on their National Security program.

**National Awards**

**Unit Award: Most outstanding Unit National Security Program**

**Deadline: June 1, 2021**

**Sources available on the Auxiliary National website:  
alaforveterans.org**

- ALA Military Family Readiness Action Guide
- ALA Operation Homefront Action Guide
- ALA USO Action Guide
- How to Collaborate with the Hiring Our Heroes Military Spouse eMentor Program
- How to Support Hiring Events for Veterans and Military & Veteran Spouses
- How to Support the Troops and their Families on Military Installations
- Welcome to our Hometown Action Guide
- How to Collaborate with the American red Cross Service to the Armed Forces
- How to Identify Veteran and Service member Families who are in Need of Assistance
- How to Plan a Send Off or Welcome Home Event
- Planning a Powerful POW/MIA Remembrance Service
- How to Welcome Home Separating Service members
- How to Collaborate with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
- How to Train for a Federal Emergency Management Agency Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)