



## *National Security*

### *Dee Dee Buckley ~ Chairman*

*The following is in accordance with the  
2017-2022 American Legion Auxiliary  
Program Action Plan for National Security*

**The National Security Program promotes a strong national defense by supporting servicemembers and their families.**

What can we do?

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

1. Ideas for Members:

- Advise your Unit of any military families that should receive a Blue Star or Gold Star Banner.
- Provide support to a family member, neighbor or another military family. Refer to the *ALA Military Family Readiness Action Guide* for specific suggestions.
- Provide assistance to servicemembers and their families directly affected by current conflicts. Work with your Post Service Officer in this effort.
- Become more informed about issues affecting a military family's home life and the resources available to help, such as PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome), TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury), domestic violence, financial literacy and other issues.
- Wear red on Fridays to Remember Everyone Deployed.

2. Ideas for Units:

- Support active-duty military families by working with an installation Family Readiness Group (FRG).
- Support reserve and transitioning servicemembers and families by working with a returning National Guard or Reserve unit or an individual transitioning servicemember or family.
- 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.
- Greet servicemembers 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.

- 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*.
- Coordinate for community donations and assemble servicemember care packages and family member support packages.
- Work with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) and refer a survivor or caretaker 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.**

### 1. Ideas for Members:

- 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.
- 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 counselors in your local area and offer to be "on call" for assistance for military children.

### 2. Ideas for Units:

- Support military spouse job fairs organized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation or The American Legion or host one in your own community. Encourage local businesses 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](http://www.theveteranmarket.com).
- Create a scholarship fund for military spouses learning a new skill.

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

### 1. Ideas for Members:

- Complete a Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) course. Refer to *How to Train for FEMA's Community Emergency Response Teams* for information.
- Build and/or help a neighbor build an emergency preparedness 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 servicemembers and their families.
- Donate blood and/or sponsor a blood drive at your Legion post home.

### 2. Ideas for Units

- Get involved in the Citizen Corps Council ([www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)) to ensure citizens are prepared to respond to natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, blizzards and manmade disasters and emergencies.
- Collect supplies for emergency preparedness kits and distribute them in your community.
- Encourage members to complete Community Emergency Response Training (CERT).

- Have a training exercise in your Legion 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 servicemember who has 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.

**Resources you may download on the National Security page at [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org):**

*ALA Operation Homefront Action Guide*

*ALA Military Family Readiness Action Guide and Instruction Sheet*

*How to Train for a Federal Emergency Management Agency Emergency Response Team (FEMA)*

*ALA USO Action Guide*

*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 Servicemember Families who are in Need of Assistance*

*How to Plan a Send Off of Welcome Home Event*

*How to Welcome Home Separating Servicemembers*

*How to Collaborate With the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)*

*Planning A Powerful POW/MIA Remembrance Service*

**Blue Star and Gold Star Service Banners are available for purchase at American Legion Emblem Sales at [www.emblemsales.org](http://www.emblemsales.org). The current cost is \$6.95 each.**

**Don't forget to wear red on Fridays!**

**Remember**

**Everyone**

**Deployed**

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