

NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2026-2027

Mission

The American Legion Auxiliary National Security Program strengthens our nation's security by supporting active-duty, reserve, Guard, and transitioning service members, their families, Gold Star Families, and initiatives that improve military quality of life. The program also promotes awareness of POW/MIA issues and encourages collaboration with American Legion Family and community partners.

Core Objectives:

-  Maintain and promote a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military service members and their families.
-  Support and enhance Legion Family and partner initiatives that strive to improve the Quality of Life (QoL) of our service members and their families.
-  Support all military families by working with their command group and family readiness groups.
-  Raise awareness of POW/MIAs and the work being performed by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in the search for missing personnel.
-  Honor and support Blue & Gold Star Families.
-  Promote emergency response, disaster preparedness, and community safety & resilience. **Support first responders when it directly strengthens community resilience, supports emergency response, and contributes to the nation's ability to protect its people and infrastructure.

NOTE: Members and Units are **not expected to complete every activity**. Instead, select projects that best meet your community's needs while advancing the program's objectives. Quality, consistency, and meaningful impact are more important than quantity.

You may be asking yourself, “How can I accomplish this mission?”

How can I help with “Mission Auxiliary Serving Heroes” #MASH as a 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.
- Aid 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.
- Wear red on Fridays to "Remember Everyone Deployed". Let it be known in your community why you're wearing red. Shirts can be purchased through ALA Department of Florida.
- Refer service members with financial assistance needs to the American Red Cross Armed Forces Call Center (Hero Care Network) at 1 (877) 272-7337.
- Complete a Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) course.
- 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 service members and their families.
- If you or someone you know is related to a service member classified as Missing in Action, please consider donating mitochondrial DNA to assist identification processes. For more information, visit [DNA | NamUs](#)
- Become more informed about the National Legion "Be The One" program. **Click [here](#) to learn more about "Be The One" or click the following link to watch the video: [Be The One Video](#)**

How can I help with "Mission Auxiliary Serving Heroes" #MASH as a 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. (Excel spreadsheet with contact information is located on the ALAFL National Security site page.
- Support reserve and transitioning service members and families by working with a returning National Guard or Reserve units or an individual transitioning service member or family.
- Greet service members and families as they deploy and/or return from deployment.
- Thank a hero: Bring cards, gift baskets, food, or letters of appreciation to our heroes, or invite them for a meal at your Unit/Post.
- Don't forget Active Duty that are away from home and may not have anywhere to go on a holiday.
- Troop Care Boxes – Invite the community to provide names of family members that are deployed, then pack boxes with items they may need or appreciate receiving.
- Celebrate various military dates & holidays by posting on social media or writing thank you cards and adding to your troop boxes.

- 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.
- Organize school supplies for our military families through the USO or Operation Homefront.
- Organize a "Welcome To Our Hometown" event to welcome military families that are moving or transitioning out of the military to your community.
- Coordinate 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 the TAPS Fact Sheet on our ALAFL site for additional information.
- Collect supplies for emergency preparedness kits and distribute them in your community. 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.
- Join your Legion family to host a POW/MIA ceremony on National POW/MIA Recognition Day, commemorated annually on the third Friday of September, this year falling on September 20th.
- Work with Legion posts to honor ROTC and JROTC cadets by having dinners and recognizing their accomplishments.
- Organize "Support Our Troops Night" at local sporting events.
- Line the streets with Blue Star Banners, yellow ribbons, and yard signs.
- Arrange speaking engagements for service members at schools.
- Present returning troops with certificates of recognition.

How can I accomplish this mission? What are some resources to help with "Mission Auxiliary Serving Heroes" #MASH in National Security?

Gold Star Moms

Troopons

Blue Star Banner | The American Legion

Blue Star Mothers

POW/MIA Advocacy | The American Legion

TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors)

Operation Homefront

Florida National Guard Family Programs

The USO

Yellow Ribbon Integration Program

Community Emergency Response Training (CERT)

Where do I find support? Here are some media links to help guide you.

National Security Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/915563745139663>

ALAFL National Security Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/888644168305953>

NATIONAL SECURITY AWARDS

CHAIRPERSON AWARD: DEADLINE MAY 26th

“Operation: Support on The Move”: As Units and Members participate in the National Security Program, they can earn points for missions completed. Special “Missions” will be given throughout the year for bonus points and to help guide you. The more you do the more points your unit earns! Points will be awarded as the following:

-  Submit a narrative with photos, including your assigned historic vehicle, describing the “missions” completed to nationalsecurity@alafl.org by May 26th, 2027
-  Include as many members and Junior members as possible
-  Post photos of your “mission” on the ALAFL National Security FaceBook page and send me a screenshot via email to nationalsecurity@alafl.org.
-  “Be Creative” and have fun!

“Missions” are any activity or project that falls under the National Security Program. Make sure you like, follow and engage on the [ALAFL National Security](#) Facebook page.

End-of-Year Recognition Categories:

Top Unit (10 – 50) – Group 1	Top Unit (51 – 100) – Group 2
Top Unit (101 – 200) – Group 3	Top Unit (201 – 400) – Group 4
Top Unit (401 – 600) – Group 5	Top Unit (601+) – Group 6
Best Overall	Most Creative Mission Photo

DEPARTMENT AWARDS: DEADLINE TO DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSON IS MAY 26TH

- **Margaret “Peggy” Cone Award:** (expires in 2030). Awarded annually to the Unit that reports “Best All Around” program in National Security activities. Please follow instructions outlined in the Unit Guide.
- **Rosemary Hamblin Award** (expires in 2034). Awarded annually to the Unit that works with and supported the Gold Star Mother(s) and/or the American Gold Star Mothers Chapter. Please follow instructions outlined in the Unit Guide.

NATIONAL UNIT AWARD: DEADLINE JUNE 1ST

Most Outstanding Unit National Security Program:

- If you are submitting your unit for the National Most Outstanding Unit of the Year for National Security Program, please complete the submission at [legion-aux.org](https://www.legion-aux.org).
- All unit entries must be submitted via electronic form by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.
- Note: You will receive confirmation when your award is submitted.
- National Awards Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-For>

SALUTE TO SERVICE MEMBER AWARD: DEADLINE JUNE 1ST

The **Salute to Service members Award** recognizes military personnel who are currently serving in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force, and the National Guard/Reserve. Each year, one service member from each branch is honored, and they are invited to attend the ALA National Convention as guests of honor.

- If you are submitting a nomination, please complete the form at [legion-aux.org](https://www.legion-aux.org).
- If your submission from the previous year was not selected, you can resubmit for the following year only.