

# NATIONAL SECURITY



## PROGRAM ACTION PLAN 2020 – 2021

This year, we will continue with President Ann’s theme of “Florida American Legion Auxiliary Strong”. We will be focusing on **STRONG WOMEN**, not only in our members, but also in the women who service our country in one aspect or another.

In the National Security Program we maintain and promote a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting active duty service members, their families, along with first responders.

Your Program Action Plan will cover several main objectives, which will include examples, and resources that are full of valuable information I’m sure that will help you throughout the year.

For God and County,

**Rhonda Brailey-Maurer**, Department Chairman  
5272 77<sup>th</sup> St N, St Petersburg, FL 33709  
(603) 455-3868, [rjbm@hotmail.com](mailto:rjbm@hotmail.com)  
[nationalsecurity@al afl.org](mailto:nationalsecurity@al afl.org)

Committee Member

**Corlene Ziegler**

Marine Corps Corporal (67-68)  
639 Sea View Dr, Destin, FL 32541  
(850) 687-1819, [corlene\\_z@yahoo.com](mailto:corlene_z@yahoo.com)

Committee Member

**Lois Glosch**

Navy 3<sup>rd</sup> class Petty Officer (81-84)  
810 Cortez Ave, Lady Lake, FL 32159  
(203) 859-1063, [tballcoach2@yahoo.com](mailto:tballcoach2@yahoo.com)

## National Security Objectives

1. Supporting and honoring our “**Strong Women**”, here are three (3) programs for just that!

- There are no stronger women than an **American Gold Star Mothers (AGSM)**, their Chapter was founded in 1928 these women whose child has made the ultimate sacrifices to our nation, have been supporting each other and serving the needs of our veterans and active duty military.

How can we support and honor them:

- Find a Gold Star Chapter in your area, and include them in your activities.
    - See Facebook “**American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Florida-PR**”
  - Have a fundraiser for them, or give a donation to your local chapter
  - Have a Gold Star Mother as a guest speaker at your unit/district meeting
  - Honor them with a special event, such as a brunch, afternoon tea, etc
  - Remember Gold Star Mothers Day, is the last Sunday in September
- There’s also our **Blue Star Mothers (BSM)**, their Chapter was founded 1942. They have been supporting each other while their child(ren) is/are actively serving or has been honorable discharged. These women, including the Silver Star Mothers (who’s child was wounded, ill or injured), also supporting each other, and serve the needs of our veterans and active duty military in many capacities.

How can we support and honor them:

- Present a Blue Star Banner to a members who’s child is actively serving
  - Find a Blue Star Chapter in your area, and include them in your activities.
    - Go to [www.bluestarmothers.org](http://www.bluestarmothers.org)
  - Like the AGSM, they also need support with fundraisers and donations.
  - ALA Members can join a BSM chapter as an “associate member” without a fee, it’s a great way to bond with the ladies, and bring awareness back to your units.
- Support our **Military Spouses** and joining the eMentor program. Far too often this group is last on the list or completely forgotten, the least we can do is step up and give a little, one on one support.

How can we do this:

- We can start by getting involved with the spouse mentoring program
  - Log into the new and improved website at: [www.ementoringprogram.org](http://www.ementoringprogram.org)
  - This is a great way to connect and offer mentoring; some are looking for mentoring to cope with relocations, career advice, parenting, and challenging personal/family life events.
- Look for someone in your unit that has connections with the military spouse networking, and work with them to find out the needs of our military families.

## 2. The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

- This program is to promote the well being of the National Guard and Reserve members, their families and communities, by connecting them with resources throughout the deployment cycle.
  - For the National Guard, you can locate a Family Program Group (FRG) Rep by going to:
    - Facebook, and look up “**Official Home of Florida National Guard Family Programs**” and send a message to find out who the Family Program Rep is in your area.
  - Work with the FRG leaders or Program Reps for morale events, holiday food drives, family day events, etc.
  - If your unit has an upcoming event, be sure to invite them to your events as well .

## 3. Homeland Security

- As we all learned in 2019 during the Government Shutdown, that the United State Coast Guard falls under this title, and also all our First Responder (Police/Sheriff, Fire, EMT). There are many ways to show our appreciation to the ones who protect our local communities, here’s a few ideas.
  - Cook a meal. Bringing home cooked food to the local police or fire station can show the local first responders that you care.
  - Bring cards and/or letters of appreciation for them.
  - Make a Gift Basket for no special reason, other than just a Thank You.
  - Most importantly let them know that the American Legion Auxiliary appreciates everything they do, and we are here to support them.

## 4. Operation Homefront

- I would encourage members to consider becoming a volunteer with this organization, as they do many events for our Military families
  - Go to [www.operationhomefront.org](http://www.operationhomefront.org), and go to “Get Involved”, it’s as easy as that.
  - Two of their annual events are the “Back to School Brigade” and the “Holiday Toy Drive”. These two programs are done through the partnership with Dollar Tree stores throughout the nation.
    - Once a person is approved, they will have the opportunity to select stores in their area that are participating with Operation Homefront.
    - Plus the volunteer will also be the contact pick-up person for their store.
    - Keeping in mind the items are generally for military children, but the delivery is up to the volunteer as to where they should go.

For more information on the National Security Program, please feel free to contact me, or go to [www.alafl.org](http://www.alafl.org) or [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org)