

# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NATIONAL SECURITY

## DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2025 – 2026

Our nation's strength and freedom rely profoundly on the dedicated men and women currently serving in our military, alongside the unwavering support of their families. These brave individuals make immense sacrifices daily, facing separation, deployment, and the unique challenges of military life. Providing them with passionate support is essential for maintaining morale, readiness, and the overall well-being of those who defend our way of life.

- Support Active Duty military
- Raise Awareness of POW/MIA's
- Support families whose servicemember made the ultimate sacrifice
- Support and Enhance American Legion Family and partner initiatives that strive to improve the Quality of Life of our servicemembers and their families

Remember you DO NOT need to do all pieces of this program. Find something that meets the needs of your unit and members and begin to **#FillTheirHeart** !

**For God and Country,**

**Julie Kay**

**ALA Department of Florida**

**National Security Chairperson**

[nationalsecurity@alaf.org](mailto:nationalsecurity@alaf.org)

**#PassionForVets #FillTheirHeart**

# ALAFL NATIONAL SECURITY

## PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT PLAN

A Pillar of Support for Our Nation's Heroes

The American Legion Auxiliary's National Security program is a vital pillar, committed to supporting our military community. We focus on **four key objectives** to drive our mission forward:



### Support Active Duty Military

Providing direct assistance and appreciation to those currently serving.



### Raise Awareness of POW/MIAs

Ensuring no hero is forgotten; accounting for every missing service member.



### Support Gold Star Families

Offering comfort and resources to families whose servicemember made the ultimate sacrifice.



### Quality of Life

Collaborating to improve quality of life for service members and their families.

# How **YOU** Can Make a Difference!

## **Support Active Duty Military**

- ✔ Provide spouse-to-spouse or family-to-family support. (ALA Military Family Readiness Action Guide)
- ✔ Assist service members directly affected by current conflicts. Connect with local Legion Service Officer.
- ✔ Work with an installation Family Readiness Group (FRG).
- ✔ Support reserve and transitioning service members and families.
- ✔ Greet service members and families deploying/returning.
- ✔ Thank a hero: Cards, gift baskets, food, or invite for a meal.
- ✔ Organize Troop Care Boxes for deployed members.
- ✔ Celebrate military dates & holidays on social media or with cards.
- ✔ Organize "Welcome To Our Hometown" events for military families.
- ✔ Arrange speaking engagements for service members at schools.
- ✔ Present returning troops with certificates of recognition.

## **Raise Awareness of POW/MIAs**

- ✔ Join with 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 19th.
- ✔ Post a POW/MIA flag at every meeting or event.
- ✔ Order annual POW/MIA posters from the DPAA and distribute them.
- ✔ Volunteer with any agency associated with the POW/MIA Cause: for example POW-MIA, DPAA, educate others about Resolution 288
- ✔ [National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum](#)
- ✔ [Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency](#)

## ★ Support Gold Star Families

- ✓ Work with Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) and refer survivors/caregivers. [TAPS Fact Sheet](#)
- ✓ Host meals at your American Legion post for families who have lost servicemembers
- ✓ Provide meals or participate in established meal trains in the weeks/months after loss
- ✓ Offer to run errands or provide respite for the survivors
- ✓ Inform your unit of military families/businesses for Gold Star Banner recognition.
- ✓ Utilize [Military OneSource](#) resources to assist those you know who are in need

## 👥 Enhance Partner Initiatives

- ✓ Refer service members with financial needs to American Red Cross Armed Forces Call Center: 1 (877) 272-7337.
- ✓ Organize school supplies for military families (USO/Operation Homefront).
- ✓ Coordinate "Month of the Military Child" activities (April), e.g., **"Purple Up!"**
- ✓ Organize "Support Our Troops Night" at local sporting events.
- ✓ Build/help build emergency preparedness kits and plans.
- ✓ Work with [Yellow Ribbon](#) Reintegration Programs.
- ✓ Work with Legion posts to honor ROTC/JROTC cadets.
- ✓ Line streets with U.S. flags, Blue Star Banners, yellow ribbons.

### **Remember: You DON'T Have to Do Everything!**

Choose a project that resonates with you and your Unit's mission, aligning with these goals to improve the quality of life for service members and their families.

[🔗 Learn more about "Be The One"](#)

# National Security Awards

2025-2026

## DEPLOY TOY SOLDIER Chairperson Award

### Instructions:

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 for the following:

- Submit a narrative with photos, including your Toy Soldier, describing the "missions" completed to [nationalsecurity@alaf1.org](mailto:nationalsecurity@alaf1.org) by May 1, 2026
- Include as many members and Junior members as possible
- Post photos of your "mission" on FaceBook as you complete them and use the hashtag **#DeployToySoldier**
- "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 [ALAF1 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 10TH

**Margaret "Peggy" Cone Award:** (expires in 2030). Awarded annually to the Unit that reports the "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 supports 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://legion-aux.org).

All unit entries must be submitted via electronic form by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.

**Note:** You will receive a confirmation when your award is submitted.

**National Awards Form Link:** <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>