

**National Security  
Program Action Plan – 2016-2017  
Ruth Rairdon, Chairman**

National Security Program maintains and promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military service members and their families.

**1. Support the emotional and social needs of active, reserve and transitioning military service members and their families.**

• **Ideas - Members**

- Let your unit members know if there is a military family or business that should receive a Blue Star or Gold Star Banner.
- “Remember Everyone Deployed” wear red on Friday.
- Let’s not forget to continue to decorate our community with yellow ribbons. Encourage others to work this program also.
- Read the ALA Military Family Readiness Action Guide to obtain suggestions on the type of support military families may value.
- Become more informed on PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder), TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury), domestic violence and other issues that may affect our service members and their family’s home life.

• **Ideas - Units**

- Work with your Legion Family to identify and have a program to present Blue Star and Gold Star Banners to individuals and businesses.
- Support reserve and transitioning service members and their families by working with a returning National Guard or Reserve units.
- Help a service member or their family you may know that is relocating to connect with an ALA unit in their new community.
- When service members are being deployed have a group to show support as they leave. Then on their return welcome them back with a meet and greet.
- Work with your American Red Cross chapter and co-host a Holiday Mail for Heroes.
- Refer to the ALA-USO Action Guide on who to contact and how to volunteer for various activities or service projects that would help uplift the spirits of American troops and their families.

**2. Assist military spouses in obtaining and maintaining employment.**

• **Ideas - Members**

- Promote military spouse job fairs in your community.
- Help man an information booth about ALA at a job fair for military spouses. Make sure to wear your ALA shirt

• **Ideas - Units**

- Work with your Chamber of Commerce of American Legion to host a job fair in your community.

### **3. Support the National Security programs of the American Legion.**

- **Ideas - Members**

- Complete a Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) course. Refer to Resource page of Program Action Plan.
- Sign up for the Legion's Action Alerts, and be sure to act on the ones regarding a strong national defense that effects our service members.
- Donate blood.

- **Ideas - Units**

- Plan a training exercise in your post home to give training in CPR, First Aid and other emergency skills. Encourage all members of the Legion Family and those in your community to attend.
- Encourage members to complete the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT).
- Work with your Legion Post to host POW/MIA ceremony on National POW/MIA Recognition Day. This is usually done on the third Friday in September.
- Follow the Legion's POW/MIA Empty Chair Resolution 288 for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings.
- Work with your Legion to honor ROTC and JROTC cadets by hosting a dinner to recognize their accomplishments.
- Have the ROTC and JROTC post colors or volunteer at unit events.
- Call a local or regional blood bank to hold a blood drive.

### **4. Special Indiana Project**

- We will be working together to collect monetary donations for the USO. The money collected will be divided between the USO at the Indianapolis Airport and Camp Atterbury.

- **Ideas - Units**

- Collect money at each unit meeting.
- Have a Bake Sale or a Bakeless Bake Sale.
- Talk with your Legion about having a raffle of some kind at one of the Legion Family events at your post home.
- Please remember to send the money to Department and mark it for the USO Fund. Then report to your District National Security Chairman what you have sent in and how you collected it.

- **District - Ideas**

- Collect donations at your District meeting as your Bylaws allow you to do.
- Turn money in to your District Treasurer and have her send it to Department for the USO Fund.

### **National Awards:**

- Each award application must include a cover sheet.
- **Unit Award – Military Support Unit Award**
  - Citation to one unit in each division
  - Entry must include the award cover sheet location in the Program Action Plan on the National website.

- Awarded to the unit demonstrating the most outstanding overall program serving and supporting military families with special emphasis on helping military families through times of deployment and/or injury (severely wounded).
- Each entry must be typewritten in narrative form.
- Include pictures and newspaper articles.
- Entries must be **sent by the Unit** National Security Chairman to the **Central Division** National Security Chairman postmarked by **June 1, 2017** or email by **5:00 p.m. EDT on June 1, 2017** to: Susan Verville, 112 Playground Road, Iron River, MI 49935. Email: [sverville1\\_1@hotmail.com](mailto:sverville1_1@hotmail.com)

### **Department Awards**

- **Alice Galka Monetary Award** to the Unit Chairman submitting the best all-around National Security program.
- **Phyllis Clark Revolving Award** to the District with the best overall program in National Security incorporating programs as outlined in the National Chairman's and Department Chairman's Program Action Plan.
- **Billie Bubala POW/MIA Award** to the Unit with the best National Security program. This is a single plaque to be presented each year.

### **Department Chairman Personal Award**

- Award to the Unit Chairman that has the highest donation for USO Fund into Department by May 30, 2017.
- Award to the District Chairman with the highest donation for USO Fund into Department by May 30, 2017.
- Award to the Junior Member that collects the highest donation for USO Fund by Department Junior Conference.
- Award to the Unit Chairman that submits the best narrative of 500 words or less – may send pictures and newspaper articles – on two (2) programs listed in the National Program Action Plan.

### **National Security Reporting**

#### **Mid-Year Reports**

- Unit Chairman due to District Chairman **no later than December 5, 2016.**
- District Chairman due to Department Chairman **no later than December 20, 2016.**

#### **Annual Reports**

- Unit Chairman due to District Chairman **no later than April 15, 2017.**
- District Chairman due to Department Chairman **no later than May 1, 2017.**

### **Additional Resource**

- [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) – go to the National Security page
- American Legion Auxiliary Military Readiness Action Guide
- How to Welcome Home Separating service members
- How to Support Troops and their Families on Military Installations
- Welcome to Our Home Action Guide
- How to train for FEMA's Community Emergency Response Teams
- Planning a Powerful POW/MIA Remembrance Service: Let US Never Forget
- ALA-USO Action Guide for who to contact, how to volunteer and various activities

### **American Legion Resources**

- Blue Star and Gold Star Banners: [www.legion.org/troops/bluestar](http://www.legion.org/troops/bluestar)
- Family Support Network: [www.legion.org/family](http://www.legion.org/family) support
- Operation Comfort Warriors: [www.legion.org/troops/operationcomfort](http://www.legion.org/troops/operationcomfort)
- POW/MIA: [www.legion.org/powmia](http://www.legion.org/powmia)
- Operation Homefront: [www.operationhomefront.net](http://www.operationhomefront.net)
- USO: [www.uso.org](http://www.uso.org)
- Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS): [www.taps.org](http://www.taps.org)

National Security maintains and promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military service members and their families. It's an honor for each ALA member to assist in these efforts of protecting our Country. Any questions about our National Security program should be directed to me.

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