

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS
NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAM ACTION PLAN
2020-2021**



***Pouring our hearts into service
to our military, first responders,
and communities***

Your 2020-2021 National Security Committee is at

your service to assist you in promoting this vital program of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Department of Texas. Please do not hesitate to call on us:

Division 1 – Shay Kuehner, Chair

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Division 2 – Liz Bryant

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Division 4 – Kathy McLaughlin

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What is this program and why do we do it?

The National Security program maintains and promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military servicemembers and their families; promoting community preparedness and awareness; and providing support to local First Responders.

Activities in support of this program include:

- Network with a local military installation to find out what needs are available from child care, activity “family fun” days, holiday activities, or families that may be in need of assistance.
- Attend and support military functions when possible such as ceremonies, Family Readiness Group meetings, etc. and seek out other organizations that provide assistance or help to the military community.
- Participate in Welcome Home the Troops and other deployment activities. Find out about the groups deploying in your community and offer your assistance for child care, holiday planning, groceries or other needs.
- Participate in community efforts to celebrate Military Appreciation Month (May), Month of the Military Child (April), Patriot Day, etc.
- Support your local first responders – many police and fire departments hold annual fund-raisers and/or holiday events for the community. Host a special breakfast or

dinner in their honor; collect stuffed animals or other items that they may distribute to those in crisis; hold ceremony in honor of 9/11 Remembrance / Patriot Day.

- Support community preparedness and awareness by holding a CERT course or other emergency response intervention activity in your neighborhood.
- More information can be found on the National Security Committee page on the ALA National website www.alaforveterans.org
- “Like” our Facebook page ALA National Security in Texas, where we post interesting facts, events, updates from DOD POW/MIA efforts to “bring them all home”, and you can share pictures and events of what you are doing to promote the program.

REPORTING DEADLINES

We love to brag on our Department and Units! Taking the time to share your stories and the positive impact you have had on others is rewarding and exemplifies who we are, what we do, and why we matter. We share your reports in a compiled report to National along with recommendations for National awards. They have deadlines that we must adhere to so it is important that we receive your reports by the deadlines noted below so that we don't miss out on the opportunity to share your accomplishments with all of Texas!

MidYear reports are due to your respective committee members (and cc: the chair) **no later than December 15, 2020**. This is a brief overview of what you have done to date and can be an email with bullet points. This also helps compile your year-end report.

YearEnd reports reflect the yearlong work of the Units and may result in a National award. Each YearEnd report should include a detailed narrative of your activities in chronological order. Pictures, newspaper articles, etc. are encouraged. YearEnd reports are due to your respective committee members (and cc: the chair) **no later than April 15, 2021**.

In honor of our 100th anniversary of service, a bit of History and Legacy of the evolution of the National Security Programs of the ALA:

In 1924, Mrs. Oliphant was elected National President and under her leadership the first Women's Patriotic Conference on National Defense was held in Washington DC in 1925. And so began what would soon become the National Security Program.

In 1942, wartime rationing and travel restrictions forced the cancellation of the Conference, but in 1953 National President Rae Ashton chaired the first Women's Forum on National Security hosted at the White House by First Lady Mamie Eisenhower and

Mrs. Pat Nixon. In 1981, the American Legion Auxiliary Awareness Assembly in Washington DC replaced the Women's Forum. Today, the National Security Program has helped countless military families and communities, and in 201 the new ALA Military Readiness Action Guide was created to provide members with valuable resources to support this worthwhile program.