



## 2024-2025 NATIONAL SECURITY TEXAS PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT PLAN (PEP)

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The purpose of the National Security Committee is to promote a strong national defense. (Standing Rule#7 Core National Standing Committees.)

### SUPPORT ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY FAMILIES

To locate the nearest family support group regardless of branch of service

Work with an installation Family Readiness Group (FRG)

Remember even if you aren't near a military installation, there are likely servicemembers and their families in your community; Active-duty military recruiters; National Guard and Reservists. Use Military OneSource's *find-your-installation* link for local information.

Don't forget the military recruiters who live in your community! They are present in communities across the country. Stop by your local recruiting station and introduce yourself and ask about needs they personally have and ask they can convey your desire to assist to local military families.



**RAISE AWARENESS OF POW/MIAs** and the work being performed by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in the search for missing personnel.

[www.defense.gov/multimedia/experience/POW-MIA/](http://www.defense.gov/multimedia/experience/POW-MIA/)



Host events in honor of National POW/MIA Recognition Day the **third Friday each September**.

<https://dpaa-mil.sites.crmforce.mil/dpaaFamWebPosters>

Post a **POW/MIA Flag and/or chair at every meeting or event**.

If you or someone you know is related to a servicemember classified as Missing in Action, please consider donating mitochondrial DNA to assist identification processes. For more information visit <https://www.health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Health-Readiness/AFMES?type=Articles>

Work with like-minded organizations to support the families of servicemembers who died during service to our country:

- American Gold Star Mothers
- American Gold Star Families
- Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
- Utilize Military OneSource resources to assist those you know in need.



**SUPPORT AND ENHANCE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY** and partner initiatives that strive to improve the Quality of Life (QoL) of our military (see next page)

Find out more information about the BASE program at

<https://www.legion.org/publications/259059/base-assessment-and-servicemember-experience-program>

Work with your Legion post by supporting their current efforts within the BASE program

Collaborate with other like-minded organizations that also support servicemembers and their families:

**ASYMCA**



Donate to or volunteer at local Armed Services YMCA Food pantries. They support servicemembers and their families along with some veterans in need of assistance.

**BLUE STAR FAMILIES**



Go to: [www.Blue Star Welcome Week - Supporters](http://www.Blue_Star_Welcome_Week_-_Supporters)

**USO**



Volunteer with your local USO

**QUILTS OF VALOR FOUNDATION**



Award a Quilt of Valor – quilts = comfort and healing. Your community likely has a Quilting Club/Group that would enjoy creating quilts for this purpose.

**TAKING CARE OF OUR PEOPLE** (defense.gov)

**DEADLINES/IMPORTANT DATES**

MAY 1 Deadline for Unit Year-end reports (April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025 = reporting year)

MAY 15 Department Program Chairman report due to Division Chairmen and copy National Chairman

MAY 1 Salute to Servicemembers Nomination Form completed and due to Past Presidents Parley Chairman

**NATIONAL PRESIDENT FOCUS**

National President Ward has an ALA national focus on helping re-invigorate our organization through membership – from the ground up. She will visit ALA Departments during her term to share a “content

enablement experience” to help Departments help their Units succeed, having seen dwindling leadership capacity due to aging membership resulting in weakening infrastructure.

### **NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAM DEPARTMENT AWARDS**

All award submissions MUST include a narrative (either PDF or Microsoft Word) explaining why the Unit being nominated should receive the award. Supporting documentation is encouraged and may also be uploaded to give a full picture of the important mission work accomplished this year. If you include more than three supporting files, notify the email address listed in the form to be provided in a future bulletin. Supporting forms can be photos, newspaper clippings or PDF documents (no larger than 14MB)

POW/MIA Participation/event/proclamation – CERTIFICATE

CONTACT LOCAL RECRUITER – CERTIFICATE

GOLD STAR Effort, Event or proclamation – CERTIFICATE

MILITARYONESOURCE sign up to their website & use at least one suggestion – CERTIFICATE

SUPPORT ASYMCA by donating or volunteering or promoting – CERTIFICATE

BLUE STAR FAMILIES EVENT, EFFORTS or ACTIVITY – CERTIFICATE

QUILTS OF VALOR produced by unit member(s) or by working with a local community quilters guild/club – CERTIFICATE

\*Each unit submitting narrative/details and entitled to a Department certificate will have one ticket placed in a drawing for each certificate. One Unit will be drawn from all the tickets for a \$45.00 cash award that is to be then used to support the unit National Security program.

BEST OVERALL DEPARTMENT NATIONAL SECURITY Unit Award - A plaque will be presented to the Unit chosen as the best overall Unit Report. Photos, News Clips, screen shots of unit facebook page or copies of proclamations must be included to qualify.

ALL unit entries MUST be submitted via electronic form by 10pm (Texas time) May 1, 2025.

ALL REPORTS MUST HAVE THE “AWARD NOMINATION FORM AND INFORMATION cover sheet included to qualify for forwarding to National or for Best Overall Unit.

NATIONAL AWARDS Form link <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

More information will be conveyed via the monthly Department Bulletins – please be sure to read the bulletins and make notes of additional information.