



## **2018-2019 American Legion Auxiliary Program Action Plan National Security**

**Wendy Trahan / Chairman Division II**

7630 Boardwalk  
Lumberton, Texas 77657  
(409) 782-7835  
[weezeet@hotmail.com](mailto:weezeet@hotmail.com)

**Tina Hill / Committee Member Division I**

6209 Walnut Dr.  
Fort Worth, Texas 76114  
(817) 564-4240  
[bmhbehmom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bmhbehmom@sbcglobal.net)

**Pat Hernandez / Committee Member Division IV**

P.O. Box 643  
Hale Center, Texas 79042  
(806) 759-3534  
[phernandez56@live.com](mailto:phernandez56@live.com)

### **What is this program, and why do we have it?**

The National Security program maintains and promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military service members and their families. **The National Security program and the 2014-2019 ALA Centennial Strategic Plan:** To maintain and promote a strong national defense by supporting service members and their families, which helps us build brand loyalty (Goal 5) among a target membership population (Goal 1) while keeping us focused on our mission.

## What can you do?

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

#### Ideas

##### Member

- Let your Unit know of any military families or businesses that should receive a Blue Star or Gold Star Banner in recognition of a service member's service.
- Wear **RED** on Fridays to "Remember Everyone Deployed."
- As a gesture of appreciation for local service member's military service, decorate your community with yellow ribbons. Encourage others to do the same.
- Provide support on a spouse-to-spouse or family-to-family basis, such as to a family member, neighbor or another military family. Refer to the **ALA Military Family Readiness Action Guide** for specific suggestions of the type of support military families may value.
- Aid service members and their families directly affected by current conflicts.
- Become more informed about issues affecting a military family's home life, such as PTSD, TBI, domestic violence, financial literacy and/or other issues.
- Refer service members with financial assistance needs to the American Red Cross Armed Forces Call Center at 1-877-272-7337.

##### Unit

- Support active-duty military families by working with an installation Family Readiness Group or an individual military family.
- Support reserve and transitioning service members and families by working with a returning National Guard or Reserve unit or an individual transitioning service member or family.
  - *Note:* Units may find service members and families independently or by working with the service member transition programs of the U.S. Department of Defense, the military service branches, or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Members may provide support on a spouse-to-spouse or family-to-family basis, such as to a family member, neighbor or another military family to which they come in contact. Refer to the **ALA Military Family Readiness Action Guide** for additional information and specific steps.
- Follow-up periodically with the service member and/or military family your Unit may be supporting to see if additional assistance is needed.
- When a service member or military family you're working with is relocating to a different community, help identify an ALA Unit in the new community and make introductions.
- Work to identify recipients and present Blue Star and Gold Star commemorative materials to individuals and businesses.
- Greet service members and families as they deploy and/or return from a deployment.
- Work with a Yellow Ribbon program office of a local military unit (Reserve or National Guard) or a state National Guard Joint Force Headquarters to show patriotic and moral support at Yellow Ribbon events; offering hospitality, refreshments, or children and youth activities; or making presentations on Auxiliary resources and services to family members of returning service members.
- If you're near a military installation, a new Department of Defense policy makes it easier for you to get and provide information about our services and programs to service members and military families. Refer to the **How to Support Troops and their Families on Military Installations** for additional information and specific steps.

- Organize a Welcome to Our Hometown event to welcome military families that are moving or transitioning out of the military to your community. Refer to the *Welcome to Our Hometown Action Guide* for additional information and specific steps.
- Equip the Post/Unit home with computer hardware and software to serve as workstations for family members with deployed service members so they can communicate with them. Set regular days and hours when this service would be available.
  - Aid those who may need help with email or other online computer related assistance.
- Refer service members with financial assistance needs to the American Red Cross Armed Forces Call Center at 1-877-272-7337.
- Co-host or participate in a Holiday Mail for Heroes event with your local American Red Cross chapter.
- Partner with an Operation Homefront field office for assembly of service member care packages and family member support packages; provide hospitality, refreshments, or children and youth activities at Operation Homefront spouse support and welcome home events. Refer to the *ALA-Operation Homefront Action Guide* for additional information and specific steps.

### **Operation Homefront Headquarters**

1355 Central Parkway S, Ste. 100

San Antonio, TX 78232

Phone: (210) 659-7756

Toll Free: (800) 722-6098

Fax: (210) 566-7544

[Info@OperationHomefront.org](mailto:Info@OperationHomefront.org)

- Work with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) and refer a survivor or caregiver for specialized support. Refer to *How to Collaborate with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors* for information and specific steps.
- Contact a USO (United Service Organization) Center and partner with a service project that will lift the spirits of America's troops and their families. See the *ALA-USO Action Guide* for who to contact, how to volunteer and various activities.

## **2. Assist military spouses in getting and maintaining employment**

### **Ideas**

#### **Member**

- Serve as a mentor in the career e-mentoring network through the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Hiring Our Heroes Military Spouse Employment Program and Academy Women. Current military spouses will be virtually paired with more experienced spouses and/or corporate and career mentors for guidance and support.
- Promote military spouse job fairs in your community.
- Help man an information booth about the ALA at a job fair for military spouses.

#### **Unit**

- Support military spouse job fairs organized by U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation or The American Legion, or host one in your own community.
- Help to implement a Legion-sponsored job fair and/or co-host a Legion Family information table at a U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation-sponsored job fair.

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

#### Ideas

##### Member

- Complete a Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) course. Refer to ***How to Train for FEMA's Community Emergency Response Teams*** for information and specific steps.
- Build and/or help a neighbor build an emergency preparedness kit and plan.
  - Remember, new military families in your community may not be familiar with the types of emergencies that affect your area. As needed, help them update their emergency kit and plan.
  - You can help little ones be prepared by using resources available through Sesame Street's website: [www.sesamestreet.org](http://www.sesamestreet.org).
- Junior members may be good candidates to participate in FEMA's National Youth Preparedness Council.
- Sign up for the Legion's Legislative Action Alerts and be sure to act on the ones regarding a strong national defense and affecting current and transitioning service members and their families.
- Donate blood and/or assist at a blood drive in your community.
- Help identify candidates for The American Legion's National Firefighter of the Year Award, given to a firefighter who has exceeded the requirements expected of his/her position and has shown a distinct pattern of National Security and professional achievement. Share the candidates(s) with your Unit National Security chairman and Post National Security chairman and/or adjutant.
- Help identify local candidates for The American Legion's National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award, given to a well-rounded law enforcement officer who has exceeded the duty requirements expected of his or her position and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of National Security, coupled with professional achievement. Share the candidates(s) with your Unit National Security chairman and Post National Security chairman and/or adjutant.

##### Unit

- Get involved in the Citizen Corps Council to ensure citizens are prepared to respond to natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, blizzards, manmade disasters and emergencies.
  - Junior members can get involved in and/or start a Youth Preparedness Program in their community.
- Collect supplies for emergency preparedness kits and distribute them in your community.
  - Remember: new military families in your community may not be familiar with the types of emergencies that affect your area. As needed, help them update their emergency preparedness kit and plan.
- Encourage members to complete Community Emergency Response Training (CERT). Refer to ***How to Train for FEMA's Community Emergency Response Teams*** for information and specific steps.
- Have a training exercise in your Post home to give training in first aid, CPR, or other types of emergency skills.
- Join with your Legion Post to host a POW/MIA ceremony on National POW/MIA Recognition Day, commemorated annually on the third Friday of September.
- Follow the Legion's POW/MIA Empty Chair Resolution 288 for designating POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings.

- Host a remembrance event for any MIA service members who have been identified from your area.
- Work with Legion Posts to honor ROTC and JROTC cadets by having dinners and recognizing their accomplishments.
- Support future military by presenting ROTC and JROTC recognition awards.
- Invite ROTCs and JROTCs to post colors or to volunteer at Unit events.
- Coordinate with local/regional chapters or blood banks to assist with blood drives.
- Work with your Unit and Post legislative committees to advocate for a strong national defense and topics affecting current and transitioning servicemembers and their families.

## **National Security Reporting**

### **Mid-Year Report**

Mid-Year reports reflect the program work of Units in the Department of Texas. Each Unit's National Security chairman is required to submit a narrative report by **December 15, 2018**, to the Department National Security chairman, Wendy Trahan, 7630 Boardwalk, Lumberton, Texas 77657 or email at: [weezeet@hotmail.com](mailto:weezeet@hotmail.com).

### **Year-End Reports**

Annual reports reflect the program work of Units in the Department of Texas and may result in a National Award for participants, if award requirements are met. Each Unit's National Security chairman is required to submit a narrative report (it is requested that these reports be accompanied by photos of Unit projects) by **May 1, 2019**, to the Department National Security chairman, Wendy Trahan, 7630 Boardwalk, Lumberton, Texas 77657 or email at: [weezeet@hotmail.com](mailto:weezeet@hotmail.com).

## **National Security Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements:** **(National Level)**

Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! It helps us tell the world how we plan to **STEP ACROSS TEXAS FOR OUR VETERANS AND FAMILIES**. Just three (3) simple steps to add your part to our National success story:

1. Please follow instructions as you fill out the National Reports and Awards Cover Sheet, found in the Awards section of the Programs Action Plan.
2. Provide details/examples about the activity as outlined in the Award's materials and guidelines section.
3. Submit as indicated in the Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan.

National Report and Awards Cover Sheet, all deadlines, and National Security Committee contact information may be found on the National Security Committee page on the National website, [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org).

**A. Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit National Security Program**

**Type of Award:** Citation

**Presented to:** One Unit in each division (5 overall awards)

**Materials and Guidelines**

- Entries must include the award cover sheet located in this program plan.
- Demonstrates the most outstanding overall program, serves and supports 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, not to exceed 1,000 words.
- Include pictures and newspaper articles.
- Entries must be sent by the Unit to the Department National Security chairman, Wendy Trahan, 7630 Boardwalk, Lumberton, Texas 77657, postmarked by **May 1, 2019**, or by email to: [weezeet@hotmail.com](mailto:weezeet@hotmail.com).

**(Department Level)**

A certificate awarded to each Unit submitting a National Security narrative, not exceeding 1,000 words; include pictures and newspaper articles. Entries are due to the Department National Security chairman, Wendy Trahan, 7630 Boardwalk, Lumberton, Texas, 77657 by May 1, 2019.

A plaque awarded to the Unit submitting the best overall National Security narrative, not exceeding 1,000 words; include pictures and newspaper articles.

Entries are due to the Department National Security chairman, Wendy Trahan, 7630 Boardwalk, Lumberton, Texas 77657 by May 1, 2019.

A certificate of participation to each Unit that participates in the following:

- POW/MIA empty chair at all official meetings
  - PTSD, TBI, domestic violence, financial literacy, and female veterans
- Please include details of your participation in your year-end report.

**SPECIAL AWARD**

**A Special Certificate will be issued to each Unit who donates to Operation Homefront. Please include the amount of your monetary donation in your year-end report.**

**SPECIAL PROJECT**

**Wear RED on Fridays. Submit a picture of your Unit members wearing their RED shirts. Pictures will be posted on the National Security in Texas Facebook page. RED shirts are available through National Security Chairman, Wendy Trahan. ALL proceeds of sales will be donated to Operation Homefront. To order your RED shirt, contact Wendy Trahan.**

## Additional Resources You Can Use

- 1) **www.ALAforVeterans.org resources on the National Security program page:**
  - *American Legion Auxiliary Military Family Readiness Action Guide*
    - A training package is also online for Departments and Units. It includes an instruction sheet, PowerPoint presentation and script, sample agenda, learning exercises, pre/post-session survey, satisfaction survey and sample marketing text.
  - *Welcome to Our Hometown Action Guide*
  - *ALA-Operation Homefront Action Guide*
  - *ALA-USO Action Guide*
- 2) **Instructional how-to sheets found on the National Security program page on the National website:**
  - How to Welcome Home Separating Service members
  - How to Support Troops and their Families on Military Installations
  - *Welcome to Our Hometown Action Guide* and participant feedback survey
  - How to Train for FEMA's Community Emergency Response Teams
  - Planning a Powerful POW/MIA Remembrance Service: *Let Us Never Forget*
  - How to Collaborate with the American Red Cross' Service to the Armed Forces
  - *ALA-Operation Homefront Action Guide*
  - *ALA-USO Action Guide*
  - How to Collaborate with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
  - How to Collaborate with the Hiring Our Heroes Military Spouse e-Mentor Program
  - How to Support Hiring Events for Veterans and Military & Veteran Spouses
- 3) **Legion Resources:**
  - Blue Star and Gold Star Banner: [www.legion.org/troops/bluestar](http://www.legion.org/troops/bluestar)
  - Disaster Preparedness and Response for American Legion Posts: [www.legion.org/documents/pdf/talarc\\_disaster\\_preparedness.pdf](http://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/talarc_disaster_preparedness.pdf)
  - Family Support Network: [www.legion.org/familysupport](http://www.legion.org/familysupport)
  - 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)
  - Legislative Action Alerts: <http://capwiz.com/legion/home/>
- 4) **Military OneSource:** [www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil)
- 5) **Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program:** [www.yellowribbon.mil](http://www.yellowribbon.mil),  
[www.jointservicessupport.org/YRRP](http://www.jointservicessupport.org/YRRP)
- 6) **American Red Cross:** [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)
- 7) **Operation Homefront:** [www.operationhomefront.net](http://www.operationhomefront.net)
- 8) **USO:** [www.uso.org](http://www.uso.org)
- 9) **Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS):** [www.taps.org](http://www.taps.org)
- 10) **ROTC and JROTC Information:**
  - Army ROTC: [www.goarmy.com/rotc](http://www.goarmy.com/rotc)
  - Army JROTC: [www.usarmyjrotc.com/](http://www.usarmyjrotc.com/)
  - Air Force ROTC: [www.afrotc.com](http://www.afrotc.com)
  - Air Force JROTC: [www.au.af.mil/au/holmcenter/AFJROTC](http://www.au.af.mil/au/holmcenter/AFJROTC)
  - Naval ROTC (includes Marine Corps): [www.nrotc.navy.mil](http://www.nrotc.navy.mil)
  - Naval JROTC: [www.njrotc.navy.mil](http://www.njrotc.navy.mil)
  - Marine Corps JROTC: [www.mcjrotc.org](http://www.mcjrotc.org)
  - Coast Guard College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative (CSPI):

- <http://www.gocoastguard.com/active-duty-careers/officeropportunities/programs/college-student-pre-commissioning-initiative>
- Coast Guard JROTC: No website, but there are two nationally (Miami, FL and Camden County, NC).
  - **Emergency Preparedness Information**
    - a) [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov)
    - b) Citizen Corps: <http://www.ready.gov/citizen-corps>
    - c) Youth-Focused Preparedness: [www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness#](http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness#)
    - d) Youth Preparedness Council: [www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness-council](http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness-council)
    - e) CERT Program: [www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams](http://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams)
    - f) Sesame Street's Preparedness Info for Young Children:  
[www.sesamestreet.org/ready](http://www.sesamestreet.org/ready) Preparedness Considerations for Military Families:  
[www.ready.gov/considerations/military-family-preparedness](http://www.ready.gov/considerations/military-family-preparedness)
  - **Follow Us on Facebook**
    - a) American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters:  
[www.facebook.com/ALAforVeterans](http://www.facebook.com/ALAforVeterans)
    - b) ALA National Security in Texas Facebook group: [www.facebook.com/ALA-National-Security-in-Texas-1115280441843771/](http://www.facebook.com/ALA-National-Security-in-Texas-1115280441843771/)