

## Purpose

The purpose of the National Security Committee is to promote a strong national defense.

## Committee Contacts

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## Program Goals/Awards

1. Every Unit submitting an end-of-year report by April 30, 2024 will be entered into a drawing for \$100.
2. The best Unit report (selected by the committee) will be submitted for the National - Most Outstanding Unit National Security Program award.
3. GOAL: submit an entry for EACH BRANCH of the military for the Salute to Servicemembers award. The Dept. of NC will need every Unit's help to achieve this! We have an excellent opportunity to win one or more of these awards, we just need to enter our candidates! National will award a winner for each branch of service - Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force and the National Guard/Reserve. Please let us know should you need help with the application - [Salute to Servicemembers Award \(legion-aux.org\)](https://www.legion-aux.org).

## Deadlines/Important Dates

### April 30, 2024 - End-of-Year reports:

- Unit reports due via email to [michelle.potuzak@yahoo.com](mailto:michelle.potuzak@yahoo.com). You can also mail them to the address on the report form.
- Sample reports can be found (beginning Oct. 15) under Programs/Program Action Plan/National Security at the ALA Department of NC website: <https://www.alanorthcarolina.com/>
- Narrative reports are fine! Simply tell us what your Unit accomplished. If you have a total number of volunteer hours, miles driven, money spent, be sure to include it! Include any of these areas:
  - Active-Duty Military and Families
  - POW/MIA and DPAA
  - Blue/Gold Star Mothers & Families
  - Disaster Preparedness
  - R.E.D. Friday - Remember Everyone Deployed
  - First Responders
  - Coupons for Troops
  - Salute to Servicemembers Award - please let us know if you have submitted a candidate (and which branch of service) for these awards through National.

June 1, 2024 - Salute to Servicemembers Award Deadline: [Salute to Servicemembers Award \(legion-aux.org\)](https://www.legion-aux.org) - please start working on these early as they take some time to complete!

## Auxiliary Resource Information

National Website (National Security Program) - <https://member.legion->

[aux.org/Member/Committees/National-Security/Get-Involved-National-Security](https://member.legion-)

Department of NC website - <https://www.alanorthcarolina.com/> - National Security Program Plan, End-Of-Year Report, and Monthly Newsletters

FaceBook - 1. Join these groups to see all the ALA is doing around the state.

2. Share posts from these groups to your Unit and personal FaceBook and social media pages/groups to increase awareness – especially military holidays and events (this will save you quite a bit of time).

3. Please post your event pictures on the Dept. of NC FaceBook page for all to see!

- National (National Security Program): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALANatISec/>
- Department of NC: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/210845542259638/>
- Division 1: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/915524541852778/>
- Division 2: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1786096965161646/>
- Division 3: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/513186208877402/>

National President Focus: For the 2023-2024 ALA administrative year, the national focus is to increase awareness about the veteran and military suicide epidemic by embracing The American Legion's Be the One initiative – be the one to save one. A few experiences of people close to National President Lisa Williamson have led to this focus for our members. The goal is to destigmatize getting help when it comes to thoughts of suicide. ([www.betheone.org](http://www.betheone.org))

Dept. of NC President Focus: For the 2023-2024 ALA administrative year, Evelyn Lewis' President's Project for the Dept. of NC will also focus on Veterans Suicide Awareness. See something, say something, "Be the One," to do something! The goal is to raise more than \$25,000 and will benefit the mental health wards at our four VA Medical Centers in NC.

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## How Can Your Unit/Members Support National Security Programs?

1. Support military servicemembers and their families.

- Support active-duty military families by working with an installation Family Readiness Group (FRG).

Contact the Family Readiness Center on your nearby military installation for more information.

- FRG stands for "[Family Readiness Group](#)," and it is the focal point of family readiness in the U.S. Navy – not for all branches of the military
- The U.S. Army FRG is now known as [the Soldier and Family Readiness Group](#), or SFRG
- In the U.S. Air Force, it's known as [the Key Spouse Program](#)
- The U.S. Marine Corps has [the Family Readiness Program](#)
- The Coast Guard has [the Work-Life Program](#)

- Collaborate with other like-minded organizations that support servicemembers and their families:
    - ASYMCA - Donate to or volunteer at local [Armed Services YMCA food pantries](#) which support servicemembers and their families.
    - Blue Star Families - [Blue Star Welcome Week – Supporters](#)
    - USO - Volunteer with your local USO - [USO of North Carolina](#)
    - Quilts of Valor Foundation - quilts = comfort and healing - [Award a Quilt of Valor](#)
    - Taking Care of Our People - [U.S. Department of Defense](#)
  - Additional efforts to support the military and their family:
    - Salute to Servicemembers Awards - [Salute to Servicemembers Award \(legion-aux.org\)](#)
    - Awareness: R.E.D. Friday – Remember Everyone Deployed and Yellow Ribbon events
    - Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s Hiring Our Heroes - <https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/hiring-our-heroes>
    - Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s Hiring Our Military Spouse Employment Program & Academy Women - <https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/hiring-our-heroes/military-spouse-program>
    - Coupons for Troops - <https://supportourtroops.org/troopons>
    - Boot Drives - <https://boots4troops.org/>
    - Care Packages - <https://supportourtroops.org/care-packages> (Sending your own? Try <https://shipthrifty.com> – an ALA membership benefit.)
    - And so much more!
2. Raise awareness of POW/MIAs and the work being performed by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in the search for missing personnel.
- <https://www.defense.gov/Multimedia/Experience/POW-MIA/>
  - Host events in honor of National POW/MIA Recognition Day on the third Friday in September. <https://dpaa-mil.sites.crmforce.mil/dpaaFamWebPosters>
  - Post a POW/MIA flag 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>.
3. Support those families whose servicemembers made the ultimate sacrifice.
- 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.
4. Other areas of focus for National Security Program
- First Responders
  - Disaster Preparedness
    - READY – FEMA’s National Public Service Campaign: <https://www.ready.gov/>
    - FEMA: <https://www.fema.gov/>
    - American Red Cross – NC (training, blood drives & disaster relief): <https://www.redcross.org/local/north-carolina.html>
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## Additional Resources

### ALA Guides from National:

- ALA Welcome to our Hometown Action Guide -
- ALA- USO Action Guide - [ALA USO Action Guide \(legion-aux.org\)](https://legion-aux.org/ala-uso-action-guide)
- ALA Operation Homefront Guide - [ALA Operation Homefront Action Guide \(legion-aux.org\)](https://legion-aux.org/ala-operation-homefront-guide)
- ALA Military Family Readiness Action Guide (Family Readiness Groups (FMG) on local installation) - [Family Readiness \(legion-aux.org\)](https://legion-aux.org/family-readiness)
- How to Collaborate with TAPS - [How to Collaborate with TAPS \(legion-aux.org\)](https://legion-aux.org/how-to-collaborate-with-taps)
- ALA how to train FEMA's CERT Teams Guide -
- Military Family Support Guide - [Military Family Support Guide \(legion-aux.org\)](https://legion-aux.org/military-family-support-guide)

### Other:

- Boots For Troops - <https://boots4troops.org/>
- Fisher Houses - <https://www.fisherhouse.org/>
- Military Installations - <https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/view-all-states>
- Military & Family Support Centers by installation - <https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/search?program-service=26/state=North%20Carolina>
- National Center for PTSD - [www.ptsd.va.gov](http://www.ptsd.va.gov)
- Operation Homefront - <https://operationhomefront.org/>
- Operation Comfort Warriors - <https://www.legion.org/operationcomfortwarriors>
- Support Our Troops - <https://supportourtroops.org/>

### Suicide Prevention:

- The American Legion - The American Legion has a website dedicated to the *Be The One* initiative. Go to [www.betheone.org](http://www.betheone.org) to learn more on how you can help.
- U.S. Army ACE Training - The Army conducts regular training on Suicide Prevention and has excellent resources available. Follow this link to access available resources on the Army ACE (Ask, Care, Escort) program. <https://www.armyresilience.army.mil/suicide-prevention/pages/about.html>
- Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (988) - [Lifeline \(988lifeline.org\)](http://Lifeline(988lifeline.org))

### FaceBook Pages/Groups to "like/join" – this a great way to find out about events going on in NC

- See all Dept. of NC and Division Pages at top of this document.
- Follow the Family Readiness programs as listed above.
- [American Legion Department of North Carolina](#)
- [North Carolina National Guard Family Programs](#)
- [USO North Carolina](#)
- [North Carolina National Guard](#)
- [Operation Homefront](#)

Please share your favorite partners so we can add them to the list for other Units to help!