**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

**Department of North Carolina**

**National Security Program Action Plan**

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

**What can you do?**

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

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.

• 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.

• Provide assistance to service members and their families directly affected by current conflicts. Get to know your local Legion Service Officer; they may be able to help you in your efforts.

• Become more informed about issues affecting a military family’s home life and the resources available to help, such as PTSD, TBI, domestic violence, financial literacy, and 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 (FRG). Contact the Family Readiness Center on your nearby military installation for more information.

• 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.

• 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.

• Greet service members and families as they deploy and/or return from a deployment.

• Work with a Yellow Ribbon Reintegration 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 U.S. 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.

• Coordinate for community donations and assemble service member care packages and family member support packages.

• 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.

• Include information about military spouse job fairs in your area.

• Provide information about what Legion Service Officers do and sign members up to help them.

B. Assist military spouses in getting and maintaining employment.

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 and volunteer to help.

• Help staff an information booth about the ALA at a job fair for military spouses.

• Write an editorial about why military spouses make good employees.

• Contact school guidance counselor in your local area and offer to be “on-call” for assistance with military children.

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. Encourage local business to participate in and hire veterans and military spouses.

C. Support the National Security programs of The American Legion.

Member

• 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 a 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 your Legion Post to honor ROTC and JROTC cadets by having dinners and recognizing their accomplishments.

• Support future military by presenting ROTC and JROTC recognition awards.

• Support your Legion Department and Posts to raise funds for Operation Comfort Warriors to provide supplies to wounded service members.

• Check with local Homeless Shelters to see if there are any veterans that are in need of help.