

National Security Fall Packet
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Colorado
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What is this program and why do we have it?

Purpose Statement: The National Security program maintains and promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military servicemembers and their families.

This program is really a very important program of the American Legion Auxiliary. Yet, many times, it gets lost among all the other activities which we do in our units. Sometimes we are doing National Security activities and we think we are doing VA& R activities. Look at it this way. If your unit is supporting active military or their families, then that is under National Security.

The National Auxiliary has highlighted these five activities for us to support:

1. Honoring the Troops
 - Purchase blue star banners for families to display in the window to show that someone is serving in the U.S. Armed Forces
2. Welcome-Home events
 - Members can collect coupons and send them to overseas commissaries
 - Host send-off and welcome home events for our troops
 - Provide pocket flags
 - Download How to Plan a send-off or welcome home event from the ALA National website
3. POW/MIA Remembrance Services
 - Conduct MIA/POW Remembrance services at unit meetings or public events. Strong, united support by all Legion Family members is crucial to bringing our heroes home.
4. Community Emergency Response Team
 - Assist your community through the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) courses. These trainings prepare members to act as an emergency response resource in times of natural disasters.

5. Ensure that America's POW/MIAs be honored and recognized
 - The American Legion Family is dedicated to ensuring that America's POW/MIAs be honored and recognized, not just memorialized.
 - The remembrance ceremony keeps us all focused on the need to account for all of our missing in action and prisoners of war.

Other ongoing ideas that we all can do any time: Member and unit

- Wear red each Friday to "Remember Everyone Deployed."
- Donate blood or assist in a blood drive in your community.
- Work to identify recipients and present Blue or Gold Star banners to individuals or businesses.
- Greet service members and families as they deploy/return from deployment.
- Sign up for the American Legion Legislative Action Alerts.
- Go to the National ALA website and look under National Security for many more ideas.
- Last, support the National Security programs of the American Legion.

Thank you all for your dedication to our veterans and active duty military and their families!

