

# National Security Guide

## 2009 - 2010

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National Security encompasses many projects and there is a project for every Unit, whether large or small. As a Unit, I encourage

you to select a project or two that will be most beneficial to your community or local area. With each of us working together, we can make a difference in our community, State and Nation.

This year the National Security Committee is once again asking Units to focus on the CERT Program. CERT stands for Community Emergency Response Team. Every citizen should be knowledgeable on how to deal with disasters, whether natural or man-made. The National Committee is encouraging a combined effort with our American Legion Post and or community to host a CERT Program. Teen CERT Programs are also available and involve our young adults. September has been designated as National Preparedness Month which is their goal for training to begin.

### Other Programs

**Supporting Military Families:** POW/MIA Issues, with support of organizations like the American Legion Auxiliary we can make a difference in brining the POW/MIA issues to the attention of all citizens. Support the initiatives of the National League of Families as they continue to speak out and exert pressure on foreign governments to make a full accounting of America's POW/MIA's. Promote

observances of POW/MIA Day on September 19, 2010 in your local communities at city hall, county court houses, State Capitol, schools and veteran facilities. You are encouraged to drape the POW/MIA flag at all unit, district, and department meetings, conferences and conventions. This year National is asking each unit to participate in the POW/MIA Adoption Program, which is \$60/year.

**Welcome Home Troops:** To ensure that all deployed returning military troops are welcomed home with open arms, units are encouraged to plan Welcome Home Events in their communities and to involve local government officials. A good relationship with local military family support networks is crucial in the success of any event. Establish a relationship with the local armory or military base and ask them how the ALA can help families and how we can support their efforts with homecomings. Offer to bring food, snacks and drinks to these events as just a small gesture of our appreciation for all they do for our Country. Work with your local American Legion to establish a table for information and membership recruitment. Supply directions for coupons, Toasty Toes, care packages, neck coolers, knitted caps, etc.

**Unit and Individual Service Member Support Activities:** Provide units with information and activities to support active duty military is

one of National's goal. Providing support to military personnel is part of the mission of the ALA. Sending comfort items like care packages that contain home made goods are always appreciated.

**Military Children and Month of the Military Child (April):** In cooperation with Children and Youth establish a comprehensive program that supports military children year-round and especially in April - a month designated for recognition of their sacrifices. Develop a guide to organizing and promoting a Teen Summit and hold a Teen Summit in your area with the assistance of the local military. This gives local Military Teens an opportunity to speak out on issues that affect them and provides us with information to improve their situation. Utilize Operation Military Kids (OMK) Hero Packs which provides information and comfort items for children of military personnel.

**National Military Appreciation Month (May):** Units and Districts are encouraged to participate in or plan events honoring our military during the month of May. This can be accomplished in many different ways, but should always include our military personnel and their families. Some ideas are having a special luncheon or dinner in their honor, certificates of appreciation or participating in open house programs on

military bases. Recognize the sacrifices of military spouses with a special event just for them.

**ALA ROTC and JROTC Programs:** National's goal is to promote and reintroduce the ALA ROTC/JROTC program to all Departments and units by distributing information to all departments that define the program. Units who have the opportunity are encouraged to support a local ROTC/JROTC unit at their local schools and inviting the cadets to participate in American Legion family programs and events.

**USO:** Campaign for recognition of the USO facility in your local area to increase the promotion of donations and volunteerism needed at that facility. Try to partner with local businesses and individuals as this can foster a long relationship of donations and volunteers for the program.

**Blue and Gold Star Program:** Members are encouraged to find mothers of active duty personnel and provide them with a Blue Star Banner. Recognize families of active duty personnel through unit and community events. You can also teach the story of the Blue Banner at events and through the Girl State program and Junior meetings.

## National Awards

**Military Support Unit Award:** A citation plaque presented to a Unit in each division that reports the Most Outstanding Overall Program supporting military families with special emphasis on enhancing quality of life and helping them through tough times of family member deployment and/or injury (severely wounded.) Entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words. May include pictures (no more than five) and news article. **Remember to include Unit name and number along with Chairman's name with entry. All Unit entries are due to Department Chairman by May 1, 2010. Department Chairman must have them to Division Chairman by June 1, 2010.**

**ALA ROTC/JROTC Unit Program Certificate:** Certificates to be presented to Unit Chairman reporting the Most Outstanding Promotion of the ROTC/JROTC Program through the ALA in their Department. Entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 750 words. May include pictures (no more than 2) and news article. **All Unit entries are due to Department Chairman by May 1, 2010.**

Department Chairman will send winning unit information including Unit number and address and Unit President and/or Chairman to the Washington DC Director by June 1, 2010.

### Department Awards

#### **Unit National Security Program Award**

A Department Award will be presented to the Unit promoting the best crime prevention program or program honoring a police officer. This is to be typewritten in narrative form and doublespaced. **All entries must be judged in the District and submitted to the Department Chairman with a signed green slip by April 15, 2010.**

#### **Phyllis Van Hill Citation**

A Department Award will be presented to the Unit promoting the best fire safety program or program honoring a fire department officer. This is to be typewritten in narrative form and double spaced. **All entries must be judged in the District and submitted to the Department Chairman with a signed green slip by April 15, 2010.**

### **BASIC AWARD RULES**

#### **ATTENTION UNIT CHAIRMAN:**

Entries **must** be double spaced in a narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words. The first page **must** contain Department, Unit name and number, Unit Chairman's name and address, and the name of the award for which the entry is submitted. No pictures, clippings, scrapbooks or folders are to be included. Reports being submitted for National Awards will not be returned.

**Entries must be submitted to your District National Security Chairman by March 31, 2010 or the date of your District Judging.**

**ATTENTION DISTRICT CHAIRMAN:**

Judge all entries and submit the winning entry for each award from your District with a **Green Certification Slip** attached including the name of the award for which it is submitted. Green Certification Slips are available from your District President. Be sure the "**Green Sheet**" is signed or it will be disqualified. Send the winning entries, along with the white copies of the Unit Annual Report and your District Annual report to the Department Chairman: Sue Houttekier 114 S Monroe Blissfield, MI. 49228.

## RESOURCES

### **Resources provided through the Auxiliary**

CERT Program Kit  
National Affiliate Agreement with Department Homeland  
Security Citizens Corps

### **Resources provided through the American Legion**

#### **Brochures:**

Blood Donor Program  
Family Support Network  
National Crime Prevention Month  
National Fire Protection Program  
ROTC List of Colleges and Universities

#### **Emblem Sales:**

Blood Donor Pins/Certificates  
Blue Star Banners

#### **Gold Star Banners:**

POW/MIA Materials including Chair Covers  
ROTC/JROTC medals

## Resources Presented by Topic in Alphabetical Order

### Blue Star Banner

Each blue star on the flag represents a service member on active duty. A gold star is displayed if a service member is killed in action or dies in service. If several stars are displayed in one family the gold star takes the honor of being placed at the top. Blue Star Banners are available from Emblem Sales.

### Blue Star Mothers

Founded in 1942, Blue Star Mothers' original goals were to bring sons home, to ensure they received the benefits they deserved, help service member's families, help each other and to be there if something happened. Over the years, the goals have broadened to rehabilitation, hospital work, children's welfare and civil defense.

[www.bluestarmothers.org](http://www.bluestarmothers.org).

### Citizen Corps Resources - Department of Homeland Security

- Citizen Corps Program for which ALA is an affiliated partner - [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov).
- CERT Program - Community Response Team. <http://www.citizencorps.gov/programs/cert.shtm>.
- READY Program for Kids, Business and America. A series of resource material available to individuals to help them prepare for the unexpected. [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov).
- Are You Ready? An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness.* [www.fema.gov/areyouready/](http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/)
- Red Cross provides a number of excellent resources, including subscription to a free eNewsletter. [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

## **Comfort Quilts**

To contribute quilt squares, assemble a quilt kit or make monetary donations go to, [www.marinecomfortquilts.us](http://www.marinecomfortquilts.us).

## **Defense Commissary Agency - Coupon Clipping**

Before mailing coupons, check on-line for information about the individual commissary you would like to use. [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com).

## **Gold Star Mothers**

On June 4, 1928, a group of twenty-five mothers residing in Washington D.C., met to make plans to organize a national organization to be known as American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., a nondenominational, non-profitable and nonpolitical organization. On January 5, 1929, the organization was incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia. [www.goldstarmothers.org](http://www.goldstarmothers.org), (202) 265-0991

## **Landstuhl Hospital Care Project**

The Landstuhl Hospital Care Project (LHCP) is a non-profit organization that provides comfort and relief items for military members who become sick, injured, or wounded from service in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan. Donated items are distributed to military patients at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, the largest American military hospital outside the U.S., and to field hospitals in Afghanistan and Iraq. [www.landstuhlhospitalcareproject.org](http://www.landstuhlhospitalcareproject.org).

## **Lets Say Thanks**

This website allows you the opportunity to send a free printed postcard to US Military Personnel stationed overseas showing you

support and appreciation for their service to our country.

[www.letsaythanks.com](http://www.letsaythanks.com)

### **Military One Source**

Military One Source is the online resource for active and recently retired members of the military. This site also provides wonderful resources for those serving these families and is funded by the Department of Defense. [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com).

### **National Fire Protection Association**

Find out more information about National Fire Prevention Week (Oct.), activities for kids and more at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) and [www.sparky.org](http://www.sparky.org).

### **National Military Appreciation Month**

For the most comprehensive list of what's planned for activities during the month of May to celebrate this month go to [www.nmam.org](http://www.nmam.org).

### **Operation Military Kids (OMK)**

OMK is the Army's collaborative effort with America's communities to support the children and youth impacted by deployment. This initiative, which the American Legion Family is directly involved, was launched in April 2005.

<http://www.operationmilitarykids.org/public/home.aspx>

### **POW/MIA Resources**

The National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia was incorporated in the District of Columbia on May 28, 1970. [www.pow-miafamilies.org](http://www.pow-miafamilies.org).

The Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office mission is to lead the national effort to account for personnel missing as the result of hostile action and establish the most favorable conditions to recover those who become isolated in harm's way.

<http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/index/htm>

### **ROTC Programs**

ROTC (Reserves Officers' Training Corps) is one of the best leadership courses in the country and is part of the college curriculum. For a list of these and Junior ROTC Programs go to [www.military.com](http://www.military.com)

### **Sesame Street Workshop**

Talk, listen, connect is a series of two DVD's designed specifically for children of military service members. These DVD's are available through Military One Source.

### **Soldiers' Angels**

Soldiers' Angels is a 5013c Non Profit founded by Patti Patton-Bader, mother of Sgt. Brandon Varn who has recently returned from a year's deployment to Iraq. Their mission is to provide aide and comfort to any of the armed forces and their families. [www.soldiersangels.org](http://www.soldiersangels.org)

### **Toasty Toes**

There are 17 chapters around the U.S. who will take the items made and distribute them accordingly. For patterns and distribution information: [www.operationtoastytoes.org](http://www.operationtoastytoes.org).

## **USO**

The USO is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide morale, welfare and recreation-type services to our men and women in uniform. The USO currently operates more than 120 centers worldwide, including seven mobile canteens located in the continental United States and overseas. [www.uso.org](http://www.uso.org).