



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Department of Ohio

2010-2011
NATIONAL SECURITY
PLAN OF ACTION

Department of Ohio National Security Chairman

CHAIRMAN : Vicky Buck
708 S Ogden Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43204
(614) 596-8540 (cell)
Email – lt248@aol.com

REPORT DUE : May 1, 2011

SEND REPORT TO : Vicky Buck
708 S Ogden Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43204



High on Patriotism
Linda Close
2010-2011 Department President

NATIONAL SECURITY

2010 – 2011

Mission Statement: The mission of the National Security Committee is to maintain and promote a strong national defense by providing the necessary means to strengthen our military families and prepare our citizenry for response to natural and man-made disasters.

Individual Units can accomplish the mission statement by using the materials, information, and programs already established for us. As Department President Linda Close says, we can all be “High on Patriotism” for our military and their families.

OBJECTIVES

1. **OBJECTIVE** – Develop, implement and monitor programs and activities that contribute to the practical and emotional well-being of military service members and their families.

Action Steps:

- a. Participate in Department of Defense and other outside programs that support our military and their families throughout the entire deployment cycle.

- A. **Promote Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program** – a program organized by the Department of Defense to provide National Guard and Reserve members and their families with information, services, referral and proactive outreach opportunities throughout the entire deployment cycle. Log onto www.yellowribbon.mil for more information about this program.

- B. **Operation Homefront** – a nonprofit organization that provides emergency and morale assistance for our troops, the families they leave behind and for wounded warriors when they return home. Operation Homefront provides aid to families struggling not only with emergencies, but also with the problems of everyday life. Potential activities that Units may undertake are assembly of service member care packages and family member support packages; provision of hospitality, refreshment, or children and youth activities at Operation Homefront spouse support events; or volunteering at an Operation Homefront activity.

- C. **Family Readiness Groups** – their mission is to help military families manage the challenges that are often faced following a deployment. Many of these families do not know about the Auxiliary, it is imperative that we reach out to them. We need to let them know that we are willing and able to help. Ways that Units can help include distributing the *Sesame Street Video Talk, Listen, Connect: Helping Families During Deployment*, helping at sendoff ceremonies; holding social events for the families; mowing lawns or fixing a leaky faucet. Units need to compile a list of members and the services that each can supply to a military family. Hold a Teen Summit for military teen family members. Teens are being affected in more ways that thought of before when a parent has been deployed. Offer to host a Teen Dance for this same group of military children.

- D. **Family to Family Support** – Auxiliary Units may offer practical and morale support to military families by matching an ALA Unit to a Family Readiness Group. Units can contact nearby military installations, Reserve or National Guard facilities to offer assistance.

- E. **USO** – provides morale, welfare and recreation-type services to military members and their families. Units can contact local USO centers for information in involvement opportunities.
 - F. **DEPARTMENT OF OHIO PROJECT – HAP (Handmade Afghan Project)** – this is a program that makes 6”x 9” rectangles that are then designed into afghans and crocheted together. This is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to providing comfort to America’s military men and women wounded in service to our country. Information for this project will be in a separate packet marked HAP.
- b. Participate in the Military and Family Support programs of The American Legion.
- A. **Family Support Network** – provides a broad range of services to help families cope with unique challenges of deployments. We have been mobilizing military units in record numbers since 9-11. As a result, the families of these men and women often find themselves unable to meet normal monthly expenses, and assistance is needed for a variety of everyday chores. These tasks include grocer shopping, child care, mowing the grass, fixing the family car and other routine household jobs. To address these issues, The American Legion has a nationwide toll-free telephone number (800) 504-4098, for service members and their family members to call for assistance. They also accept e-mail requests at familysupport@legion.org Auxiliary Units can work with their Legion posts to provide volunteers and other Auxiliary resources as part of the Legion Family response to requests that come through the Legion’s Family Support Network.
 - B. **Operation Comfort Warriors** – a program dedicated to meeting the needs of wounded and ill warriors, either hospitalized or in warrior transition Units, with comfort items not usually supplied by the government. Auxiliary Units can work with their Legion posts to raise funds.
 - C. **Heroes to Hometown** – The American Legion is further assisting returning heroes through its Heroes to Hometown program which focuses on addressing issues for newly returning heroes, ranging from employment to emergency monetary assistance, to renovating homes for handicap access, to family counseling. Service members and their families seeking assistance can call (202) 621-9924 or e-mail heroestohometowns@lgion.org. This program provides numerous opportunities for Auxiliary Units and Legion posts to work together.
 - D. **Gold Star Banner and Blue Star Banner Programs** – The Blue Star Service Banner was designed and patented in 1917. It quickly became the unofficial symbol of a child in the service. Today, Blue Star Service Banners are displayed by families who have a loved one serving in the Armed Forces including the National Guard and Reserves. Each blue star on the flag represents a service member on active duty. If the individual symbolized is killed or dies while serving, the star representing that individual will have superimposed on it a gold star of smaller size so that the blue forms a border. The American Legion Family is rekindling the spirit of pride in our military men and women following the horrific terrorist attacks of 9-11, by providing banners to families in communities across the nation. In March 2010, the Legion announced a new Blue Star Coin to honor spouses and family members of service members who currently or formerly served this country. The American Legion also has a special Blue Star Banner Corporate Flag for government and corporate America to show their support for employees called to active duty. Auxiliary Units can work with The American Legion to present Gold Star/Blue Star Banners to individuals and the corporate flag to businesses. Units may also hold receptions or events for Gold Star/Blue Star family members. The

Blue Star Mothers' was founded in 1942 and it's 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 is something happened. Over the years, the goals have broadened to rehabilitation, hospital work, children's welfare and civil defense.

- E. **POW/MIA Initiatives** – The American Legion and Auxiliary are committed to achieving a full accounting of all POW/MIAs from the Gulf War, Vietnam War, Cold War, Korean War and World War II. This means returning living POWs, the repatriation of their remains, or finding convincing evidence why neither of these is possible. Units can join with the Legion to host a ceremony on National POW/MIA Recognition Day on September 17, 2010. Engage the local community to fully recognize this day with media coverage. This commemoration is set aside to honor the commitment and sacrifices made by this nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action, as well as their families. The focus is to ensure that America remembers its responsibility to stand behind those who serve and to make sure we do all that is possible to account for those who have not returned. The POW/MIA Empty Chair Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th American Legion National Convention, calls for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings of The American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States. Units should follow this resolution at all official meeting and events and could also participate in the POW/MIA table ceremony.
- c. Support implementation of homeland security programs of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.
 - A. **Citizen Corps** – This is the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) grassroots strategy to bring together government and community leaders to involve citizens in all-hazards emergency preparedness and resilience. Citizen Corps asks every citizen to embrace the personal responsibility to be prepared, to get training in first aide and emergency skills, and to volunteer to support local emergency responders, disaster relief and community safety. Units should reach out particularly to military families transferring into their communities and include them in the Citizen Corps initiatives.
- d. Provide recognition and support for ROTC and JROTC groups.
 - A. **ROTC and JROTC** provide leadership opportunities for future military personnel. Students learn firsthand what it takes to lead others, motivate groups and conduct missions. Unit can support these future leaders by presenting recognition awards and by inviting them to participate in Post and Unit events.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

American Legion Auxiliary Gateway to Services – this contains information on how to connect veterans, military service members and military families to resources and support that enhance their lives. Unit members can go to the Auxiliary's website at www.legion-aux.org to access this information as well as on programs identified for National Security Plan of Action. Information is available in the areas of family; community and social support; health and wellness; career, training and education; and financial and legal support.

National Military Appreciation Month (May) – Units should partner with The American Legion and other community organizations during May to increase awareness of and show

appreciation for military families. Hold a special event for the military spouses to recognize the sacrifices that they make. To maintain a strong, all-volunteer fighting force, it is imperative for our National Security that we help to sustain our military families. Start planning your activities early as reports are due May 1. Get your events into your local newspapers early.

AWARDS

Department

Avonelle Clinger Plaque

A plaque will be presented to a Unit Chairman report the “Best All Around National Security Program” based on the annual report form. **Report form must be completed and mailed to Department Chairman, Vicky Buck, 708 S. Ogden Avenue, Columbus, OH 43204. The report form deadline is May 1, 2011.**

Phyllis Nickoson Plaque

A plaque will be presented to a District President with the highest percentage of Units reporting on National Security. **The report form deadline is May 1, 2011.**

National

Military Support Unit Award

A citation will be presented to a Unit in each Division that reports the Most Outstanding Overall Program serving and supporting military families with special emphasis on helping them through times of family member deployment and/or injury (severely wounded). Entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words. Please include pictures and news articles. The cover page must have the Department name, District number, Unit name and number, Chairman’s name and address and name of the award entry. **Entries are to be sent to Department Chairman, Vicky Buck, 708 S. Ogden Avenue, Columbus, OH 43204. The entry deadline is May 1, 2011.**

ALA ROTC/JROTC Program Certificate

A certificate will be presented to a Unit Chairman reporting the Most Outstanding Promotion of the ROTC/JROTC Program. Entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words. Please include pictures and news articles. The cover page must have the Department name, District number, Unit name and number, Chairman’s name and address and name of the award entry. **Entries are to be sent to Department Chairman, Vicky Buck, 708 S. Ogden Avenue, Columbus, OH 43204. The entry deadline is May 1, 2011.**

Resources

1. American Legion Auxiliary Gateway to Services
 - www.legion-aux.org
2. Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program
 - <http://www.yellowribbon.mil>
 - www.jointservicessupport.org/YRRP
3. Operation Homefront
 - <http://www.operationhomefront.net/>
4. Family Readiness Groups (FRGs)
 - www.armyfrg.org/skins/frg/home.aspx - United States Army FRG homepage
 - <http://www.hooah4health.com/4life/hooah4family/frg.htm> - includes FRG Handbook
 - <http://familyreadinessgroup.org>
 - www.navyfrg.com – Navy Family Readiness Groups
 - www.ong.ohio.gov/family - Ohio National Guard Family Readiness Program
 - Many states have National Guard Family Readiness Groups which can be found by doing an Internet search using “National Guard Family Readiness Groups”
5. USO
 - www.uso.org
6. ROTC/JROTC
 - www.goarmy.com/rotc
 - www.afrotc.com
 - www.nrotc.navy.mil
 - www.mcjrotc.org
 - www.military.com
7. American Legion Programs – www.legion.org
 - Family Support Network – www.legion.org/familysupport
 - Operation Comfort Warriors – www.legion.org/troops/operationcomfort
 - Gold Star & Blue Star Banner Program – www.legion.org/troops/bluestar
 - POW/MIA Initiatives – www.legion.org/powmia
 - The American Legion Publications for National Security – www.legion.org/publications
8. POW/MIA
 - www.dtic.mil/dpmo
 - www.pow-miafamilies.org

9. National Military Appreciation Month
 - www.nmam.org/

10. Citizen Corps/CERT Training
 - www.citizencorps.gov/cert/training_mat.shtm
 - www.citizencorps.gov
 - www.fema.gov/areyouready/
 - www.redcross.org

11. Other miscellaneous Internet sites with valuable information for the National Security Program
 - American Supports You – www.americasupportsyou.mil
 - Blue Star Mothers – www.bluestarmothers.org
 - Gold Star Mothers – www.goldstarmothers.org
 - READY Program for Kids, Business and America – www.Ready.gov
 - Let's Say Thanks – send military personnel stationed overseas a free postcard showing support and appreciation for their service to our country – www.letsaythanks.com
 - Military One Source – a resource for active and recently retired members of the military – www.militaryonesource.com
 - Homeowners Assistance Programs for military – <http://hap.usace.army.mil>