



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Department of Ohio

2009-2010
NATIONAL SECURITY
PLAN OF ACTION

Department of Ohio National Security Chairman

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Communication Is Key
Martha Lee Thatcher
2009-2010 Department President

NATIONAL SECURITY

2009-2010

Mission Statement: To maintain and promote a strong National defense by providing the necessary means to strengthen our military families, also to have a prepared citizenry that can respond to natural and man-made disasters.

We can do this as individual Units by using the materials, information, and programs already established for us. Department President Martha Lee Thatcher's message says it loud and clear: "Communication is Key".

1. OBJECTIVE – CERT Program

Prepare our Unit level members, their families and members of our communities to deal with natural or man-made disasters by sponsoring the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training offered through the Citizen Corps Program.

Action Steps

- a. Promote National Preparedness Month in September.
- b. Promote ALA involvement in CERT and work cooperatively with the International Association for Emergency Managers and with DHS Regional Emergency Managers.
- c. Develop a Ready Kids program (DHS)

2. OBJECTIVE – Supporting Military Families

Support active military and their families both during and after deployment by showing them they are appreciated through Welcome Home greetings and providing home services (child care, yard work, social visits, cooking, recreation, etc). Involve your Unit to sponsor a National Military Appreciation Month (May) and the Month of the Military Child (April). Obtain a supportive relationship with your local Family Readiness Group. Support and spread the word about Canine for Combats. Promote POW/MIA initiatives.

Action Steps

- a. Promote observances of POW/MIA Day September 19, 2009. Encourage display of the POW/MIA flag at all Unit, District, County and Department meetings, conferences and conventions. Participate in the POW/MIA Adoption Program (\$60 year).
- b. Address the needs of deployed troops. Within the community, assist the families of deployed military. Welcome deployed troops returning to your community with sincere gratitude.
- c. Promote the Month of the Military Child (April). Recognize all military children and their sacrifices; utilize the Operation Military Kids (OMK) Hero Packs. Ask how we can help. Purchase the Sesame Street Workshop, Talk, Listen and Connect DVD.
- d. Promote National Military Appreciation Month (May). Because of our deadlines for reporting (changing of chairman) start preparation early, by getting your event

- published in Newspaper in April. Describe your upcoming event, or event in May 2010. Recognize the sacrifices of military spouses with a special event. Plan or participate in an event honoring our military. Create a campaign to bring attention to the designation of this month.
- e. Work closely with your Family Readiness Group; let them know you are there to help. Stay in constant contact to develop their trust. They will be your biggest asset.
 - f. Learn about and spread the word to those soldiers in need, about Canine for Combats.

Best Practice: A full accounting of all POW/MIA personnel is a daunting task but with the support of organizations like the ALA we can make a difference. Support programs designed to bring the POW/MIA issue to the attention of all citizens as to not let anyone forget the sacrifice they made for our country. Engage the local community to fully recognize POW/MIA Day with media coverage. Involve the American Legion and utilize the local American Legion Post to host an event on POW/MIA Day such as a breakfast with guest speakers and show the POW/MIA table ceremony.

Events to welcome home our returning troops are not easy to coordinate and a good relationship with local military family support networks is crucial to the success of any event. Create a dialog and establish a relationship with the military family support group located in the local armory or military base. Ask these local support groups how the ALA can help families and how we can support their efforts with homecomings, etc.

Best Practice: Military Teen Summits are being developed across the nation. These summits will provide Units an opportunity to take an active role in military kids and their needs. The Sesame Street Workshop Talk, Listen and Connect DVD are a great way for families to connect before or reconnect after a deployment. Utilizing the Operation Military Kids (OMK) Hero Packs is also a fantastic way to provide information and comfort items for children of military personnel.

3. OBJECTIVE – Support Additional Military Related Initiatives

This covers all other pertinent program information.

Action Steps

- a. Create a partnership with the USO affiliates and assist by volunteering or donating goods or money. Their funds are depleted and they need our help. It's a great organization.
- b. Locate and distribute Blue Star Banners to families and businesses in your community of deployed military personnel. Teach the story of the Blue/Gold Star Banner.
- c. Present Gold Star Banners to the immediate families of troops, in your community, who sacrificed their lives for a grateful nation.
- d. Take time to adopt a ROTC/JROTC unit at your local high school or college.
- e. Sponsor/host or participate in a Blood Donor Program.
- f. Adopt a Military unit or individual and send care packages. Check with your Family Readiness Group to find out their immediate needs.
- g. Participate in America Support You Initiative and coupon clipping program.

h. Donate money or quilt squares to the Comfort Quilt Program/Toasty Toes.

Best Practice: Providing support to military personnel is a clear part of our mission. Sending comfort items like care packages that contain home made goods are always appreciated. Campaign for recognition of the USO facility nearest you and assist with the promotions of volunteerism and donations needed for the facility. Involve local businesses and individuals to create partnerships that can foster a long relationship of donations and volunteers for the program.

NATIONAL SECURITY AWARDS NATIONAL

MILITARY SUPPORT AWARD: A citation plaque presented to one Unit in the Central Division that reports the Most Outstanding Overall Program supporting military families with special emphasis on enhancing quality of life and helping them through times of family deployment and/or injury (severely wounded.) Entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words. 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. The entry may include pictures (no more than 5) and news articles. **Entries are to be sent to Department Chairman Mary Ann Michael, 6615 Hudnell Road, Athens, Ohio 45701. The entry deadline is May 1, 2010.**

ALA ROTC/JROTC PROGRAM CERTIFICATE: A Department Certificate of Excellence will be presented to the 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. The cover page must have the Department name, the 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 Mary Ann Michael, 6615 Hudnell Road, Athens, Ohio 45701. The entry deadline is May 1, 2010.**

NATIONAL SECURITY RESOURCES

Resources provided through the Auxiliary

CERT Program Kit

National Affiliate Agreements with:

DHS: Citizen Corps

DOD: America Supports You

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)

America Supports You

This program, of which ALA is an affiliate member, is a coalition of non-profit community organizations focused on helping our military men and women and their families. For more information go to www.americasupportsyou.mil.

Blue Star Banners

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 on top.

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.

Citizen Corps Resources- Department of Homeland Security

Citizen Corps Program for which ALA is an affiliated partner- www.citizencorps.gov

CERT Program-Community Emergency Response Team.

<http://www.citizencorps.gov/programs/cert.htm>.

READY Program for Kids, Business and America

A series of resource material available to individuals to help them prepare for the unexpected. Visit www.Ready.gov.

Are You Ready?

An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness (IS-22) is FEMA's most comprehensive source on individual, family, and community preparedness. The guide has been revised, updated, and enhanced in August 2004 to provide the public with the most current and up-to-date disaster preparedness information available. www.fema.gov/areyouready/

Red Cross provides a number of excellent resources, including a subscription to a free eNewsletter. Visit www.redcross.org.

Comfort Quilts

To contribute quilt squares, assemble a quilt kit or make monetary Donations go to, www.marinecomfortquilts.us.

Defense Commissary Agency- Coupon Clipping

Before mailing coupons, check online for information about the individual commissary you would like to use. Check www.commissaries.com.

Gold Star Mothers

On June 4, 1928, a group of 25 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, nonprofit and nonpolitical organization. On January 5, 1929 the organization was incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia. www.goldstarmothers.org 202-265-0991.

Landstuhl Hospital Care Project

The Landstuhl Hospital Care Project 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 hospital outside of the U.S.A., and to field hospitals in Iraq and Afghanistan.

www.landstuhlhospitalcareproject.org

Let's Say Thanks

This web site gives you an opportunity to send a free printed postcard to US Military Personnel stationed overseas showing your support and appreciation for their service to our country.

www.letssaythanks.com

Military One Source

Funded by the Department of Defense, 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. Go to www.militaryonesource.com.

National Fire Protection Association

Find out more information about National Fire Prevention Week (October), activities for kids and more at www.nfpa.org and www.sparky.org.

National Military Appreciation Month

For the most comprehensive list of what is planned for activities during the month of May to celebrate this month, 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, of which the American Legion Family is directly involved, was launched in April 2005. Go to <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. Voting membership is comprised solely of the wives, children, parents, and other close relatives of Americans who were or are listed as prisoners of war, missing in action, killed in action/body not recovered and returned Vietnam War U.S. POW's. 703-465-7432 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 became isolated in harm's way. <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/index/htm>

ROTC Programs

ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) is one of the best leadership courses in the country and is part of the college curriculum. During classes and field training, students learn first-hand what it takes to lead others, motivate groups and how to conduct missions. For a list of these and Junior ROTC Programs 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, available through Military One Source, are great tools for parents and children alike.

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 years' deployment in Iraq. Soldiers Angels is an all volunteer run organization, incorporated in the state of Nevada. The Soldiers Angels mission began in June 2003 and is to provide aide and comfort to any of the armed forces and their families. 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 go to 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 original intent of Congress-and enduring style of USO delivery- is to represent the American people by extending a touch of home to the military. The USO currently operates more than 120 centers worldwide, including 7 mobile canteens located in the continental United States and overseas. www.uso.org