



NATIONAL SECURITY

CITATION OF MERIT



REQUIREMENT

CHAIRMAN

Cynthia Boehnlein 6669 Rochelle Blvd. Parma Hts., OH 44130 (440) 212-5150

Email – cboehnlein55@gmail.com

REPORT DUE: April 15, 2021

Department Report Form This Form should be attached to each narrative that is submitted for information, Citation of Merit requirements and possible Department award. Please fill out the information as completely and accurately as possible. A Unitmust submit a this report form with boxes completed and answer the questions below in order to earn the Citation of Merit. Narrative-word count must follow directions given in award guidelines. Simple or elaborate stories will be accepted as a report. **Please complete the following.** Be sure to give the complete name of your Unit: District Unit# Unit Membership Goal Unit Membership Total As of Report Name of Person Completing Report: Unit Chair. Unit Pres Membership ID (if available) Phone # Email Specific Award Name(if applicable)

NARRATIVE INFORMATION

Narrative must be typed written in narrative form.

Narrative must not exceed 1,000 words. (Can be fewer words if program dictates)

Narrative may include photographs and news articles.

As part of your narrative report, answer the following questions in your narrative and include number of volunteers, hours and monies:

•	Did members organize Welcome to Our Hometown events? If so, what was most successful? Did they have any challenges?
•	What types of national security activities and/or projects were done at units in your department that weren't near a military installation?
•	How were Blue Star and Gold Star Banners presented?
•	How were MIA families recognized following notification of remains?
•	How were service members honored during welcome-home events?
•	How were military families connected to other units when moving?

D	id your Unit host a Blood Drive?
Pr	reparing care packages?
W	rite letters to the troops?
Pa	articipate with Taps (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors?
H	ave a Pow/Mia Chairman at meetings?
W	Vear RED on Friday?
R	ecognize ROTC and JROTC cadets?
Pa	articipate and recognize and family during National Military Appreciation Month?
Pa	articipate and recognize Send Off events?
Pı	resent Blue Star or Gold Star Banner?
D	id military families connect with other families during a move?
Pa	articipate or host a Red Cross or USO event?

Program Summation:

Total Number of	Total Number of	Total Number of	Total Dollars	Total Number of
Volunteers	Jr. Volunteers	Volunteer Hours	Spent or Raised	Patriotic/Veteran
				Programs/Events
			Φ	
			P	

The National Cover Sheet is included as the next form. Please fill out the Unit or Member Portion and send with your Narrative. Send your narrative, this report form and National Cover Sheet to your District or Department Chairman.



American Legion Auxiliary National Report and Award Cover Sheet

See the Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan to determine where to send this form. Please note, your report will also be viewed as an award entry if this cover sheet is attached.

Complete the following if you are applying for a member award.

Unit #: Full official unit name:
Name of state where you are a member:
Member's Full Name: ALA member ID#:
Nominating Member (if different from above):
Nominator's Phone number: ()
Nominator's Email address:
National committee sponsoring award:
Name of the award you are applying for:

Unit #: Full official unit name:
Name of department:
Unit president/chairman (circle one) name:
Above listed person's ALA member ID#: Phone number: ()
Email address:

Name of department:
Name of department chairman:
Chairman's phone number: () ALA member ID#:
Chairman's amail address:

NATIONAL SECURITY

What is this program, and why do we have it?

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

What can you do?

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

Ideas:

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 Legion Service Officer, they may be able to help you and 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.
 - O Note: Units may find service members and families independently or by working with the service member transition programs of the U.S. Department of Defense, the military service branches, or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Members may provide support on a spouse-to-spouse or family-to-family basis, such as to a family member, neighbor or another military family to which they come in contact. Refer to the ALA Military Family Readiness Action Guide for additional information and specific steps.
- 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.
- Work to identify recipients and present Blue Star and Gold Star commemorative materials to individuals and businesses.
- 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 members and 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.

2. Assist military spouses in getting and maintaining employment.

Ideas:

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 patriciate and hire veterans and military spouses.
- Help to implement a Legion-sponsored job fair and/or co-host a Legion Family information table at a U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation-sponsored job fair.
- Seek grant funds to help military spouses start small businesses. Promote participation amount military spouses at www.theveteranmarket.com.
- Create a scholarship fund for military spouses learning a new skill.

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

Ideas:

Member

- Complete a Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) course. Refer to *How to Train for FEMA's Community Emergency Response Teams* for information and specific steps.
- Build and/or help a neighbor build an emergency preparedness kit and plan.
 - o Remember, new military families in your community may not be familiar with the types of emergencies that affect your area. As needed, help them update their emergency kit and plan.

- Sign up for the Legion's Legislative Action Alerts and be sure to act on the ones regarding a strong national defense and affecting current and transitioning service members and their families.
- Donate blood.

Unit

- Get involved in the Citizen Corps Council (www.ready.gov) to ensure citizens are prepared to respond to natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, blizzards and manmade disasters and emergencies.
 - Junior members can get involved in and/or start a Youth Preparedness Program in their community.
- Collect supplies for emergency preparedness kits and distribute them in your community.
 - Remember: new military families in your community may not be familiar with the types of emergencies that affect your area. As needed, help them update their emergency preparedness kit and plan.
- Encourage members to complete Community Emergency Response Training (CERT). Refer to *How to Train for FEMA's Community Emergency Response Teams* for information and specific steps.
- Have a training exercise in your post home to give training in first aid, CPR or other types of emergency skills.
- 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 Legion posts to honor ROTC and JROTC cadets by having dinners and recognizing their accomplishments.
- Support future military by presenting ROTC and JROTC recognition awards.

4. The Department of Ohio's Military Family Assistance Fund

• The Department of Ohio has its own National Security Program called *THE MILITARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE FUND* (MFAF). This fund is set up to provide financial assistance to Veterans and their families that find themselves in a financial hardship due to medical expenses, relocating, transitioning out of active duty and other various reasons. This fund is supported through Unit and member donations and goes directly to the Veteran in need. A committee of three reviews the applicant's application and determines the need and the amount to be provided. Funds are sent to the creditor to offer assistance with items like utilities, mortgages, rent, insurance, medical bills and so on. There are a few special requirements for the MFAF Grants. Veterans and Active Duty Military families that apply must be currently on active/reserve/guard status or have ETS'd within the last 4 years. Applicants must also be residents of Ohio and have Auxiliary Unit Assistance in completing the MFAF Grant Application. See Brochure and Application at the end of this plan.

Additional Resources You Can Use

- 1. www.ALAforVeterans.org resources on the National Security page:
 - American Legion Auxiliary Military Family Readiness Action Guide
 - A training package is also online for departments and units. It includes an instruction sheet,
 PowerPoint presentation and script, sample agenda, learning exercises, pre- and post-session survey, satisfaction survey and sample marketing text.
 - Welcome to Our Hometown Action Guide
 - ALA-Operation Homefront Action Guide
 - ALA-USO Action Guide
- 2. Instructional How To Sheets found National Security Program page on the National Website:
 - How to Welcome Home Separating Service members
 - How to Identify Veteran and Servicemember Families who are in need of assistance.
 - How to Support Troops and their Families on Military Installations
 - How to Train for FEMA's Community Emergency Response Teams
 - Planning a Powerful POW/MIA Remembrance Service
 - How to Collaborate with the American Red Cross' Service to the Armed Forces
 - How to Collaborate with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
 - How to Collaborate with the Hiring Our Heroes Military Spouse eMentor Program
- **3.** Legion Resources:
 - Blue Star and Gold Star Banner: www.legion.org/troops/bluestar
 - Disaster Preparedness and Response for American Legion Posts: www.legion.org/documents/pdf/talarc_disaster_preparedness.pdf
 - Family Support Network: www.legion.org/familysupport
 - Operation Comfort Warriors: www.legion.org/troops/operationcomfort
 - POW/MIA: www.legion.org/powmia
 - Legislative Action Alerts: http://capwiz.com/legion/home/
- **4.** Follow Us on Facebook:
 - American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters: www.facebook.com/ALAforVeterans
 - The national National Security Committee Facebook group, search "ALA National Security"

National Security Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements:

Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! It helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Just three simple steps to add your part to our national success story:

- 1. Please follow instructions as you fill out the National Report and Awards Cover Sheet found in the awards section of the Programs Action Plan.
- 2. Provide details/examples about the activity as outlined in the award's materials and guidelines section.
- 3. Make sure to include your data from 2019 2021 in your report.

National Report and Awards Cover Sheet, deadlines, and National Security committee contact information may be found on the National Security committee page on the national website www.ALAforVeterans.org

National Security Reporting:

Mid-Year Reports

Mid-Year reports reflect the program work of units in the department and are intended as an opportunity for mid-year correction. Each Unit National Security Chairman is required to submit a narrative report by **December 15, 2020** to the Department National Security Chairman.

Year-End Reports

Annual reports reflect the program work of units in the department and may result in a national award for participants if award requirements are met. Refer to front page with questions to be answered. Each Unit National Security Chairman is required to submit a narrative report by **April 15, 2021** to the Department National Security Chairman.

DEPARTMENT AWARD INFORMATION & DEADLINE

Avonelle Clinger Plaque – A plaque will be presented to the Unit Chairman report with the "Best All Around National Security Program" based on the annual report. Entries must be typed in narrative form and may include pictures and newspaper articles. Narrative form must be completed and mailed to Department National Security Chairman Cynthia Boehnlein, 6669 Rochelle Blvd., Parma Hts., OH 44130 by **April 15, 2021.**

Phyllis Nickoson Plaque – A plaque will be presented to the District President with the highest percentage of Units reporting on National Security. This report form deadline is **April 15, 2021**.

Military Spouse Mentor

- Deadline: **April 15, 2021**
- Send a list of Unit Members that participate in the Women's Academy eMentoring Program to the Department Chairman, Cynthia Boehnlein, 6669 Rochelle Blvd., Parma Hts., OH 44130. Department Chairman will combine the number of active participants for the Department of Ohio and submit for the Military Spouse Mentor Award at the Division/National Level.

Chairman's Special Award

Emergency Preparedness Kits

This year National Security and VA & R will become a team by asking units to make Emergency Preparedness Kits to be distributed to senior centers throughout Ohio. This project will not only serve our communities, but all those veterans who spend time at the centers.

Units will put together kits and distribute them to Seniors in their area. Each unit will be responsible for making and distributing their own kits. Suggestions for items to be put in the kit is listed below.

- Conduct special fundraiser to buys items or solicit businesses for donations
- Appoint a Chairman to take photos, publicize and write a REQUIRED NARRATIVE
- Keep track of number of kits given to veterans
- Narrative to include number of volunteers, how many kits distributed and where they were distributed
- Criteria for winning narrative:
 - o Must be typewritten with 1,000 words or less.
 - o Must include at least one (1) photo, news clipping, if available, other PR material.
 - o Number of volunteers that worked on kits.
 - o How many kits were distributed and where they were distributed?
- Deadline: April 1, 2021
- Judges: Cynthia Boehnlein, National Security Chairman and Susan Fratino, VA & R Chairman

Send your narrative and attachments to: National Security Chairman, Cynthia Boehnlein, 6669 Rochelle Blvd., Parma Hts., OH 44130

SUGGESTED ITEMS TO INCLUDE IN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS KITS

Flashlight – small Extra batteries for light

Scissors Pen & paper Poncho Hand warmers

Toothbrush (2)/toothpaste (travel size) Hygiene items (small size shampoo, shaving cream,

razor, lotion, soap bar)

Moist towelettes Face masks
Gloves Hand sanitizer

Candle Matches (in plastic bag)

Can opener Whistle
Phone charger Small pack tissues

Water Small first aid kit (Band-Aids, tape, peroxide)

Garbage bags Toilet paper

Other things the recipient of the kit can put in it:

Important papers
Cell phone

Application Necessary Information for

- fully to the best of your ability. The application must be completed
- 2. Supporting documentation that is
- A. Copies of billing statements
- B. Estimates for repairs or replacements
- C. Estimates for food, clothing, expenses.
- 3. A statement in your own words assistance, not to exceed 250 words explaining the need for financial

You must produce one of the following..

- A. Order of Separation
- B.VA Printout which includes discharge
- C. Other Official proof that clearly character of discharge. indicates dates of active duty and

Active Duty Personnel

You must provide the following...

- Deployment Orders
- Official letter from commanding officer detailing duty assignment

application please contact: For more information or an

erican Legion Auxiliary Unit#

American Legion Auxiliary Zanesville, Ohio 43702 Department of Ohio PO Box 2760

Phone: 740-452-8245 Fax: 740-452-2620



Military Family Assistance Fund



MISSION:

Providing Funds to Assist Members and their Military Service

Families

A program instituted by the Department of Ohio American Legion Auxiliary to help Veterans, Active Duty Service Members and their Families



What is the Military Family Assistance Fund?

It's a new program developed and introduced by the American Legion Auxiliary to come to direct aid of our veterans and their families.

The program offers financial assistance for eligible veterans and their families. There is money available to assist in covering the costs of maintaining basic family needs such as the costs of shelter, food, utilities, and health expenses. Helping to keep a stable home environment. Funding can include, but is not limited to, family living expenses including rent, mortgage payment and utility bills; medical expenses; childcare for working parents; insurance premiums, and assist with necessary home repairs.

It is not necessary to be a member of the American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary to apply. Assistance is in the form of a grant and doesn't not have to be paid back. We only ask that you "pay it forward" and someday do a good deed for another.

Who is eligible?

Ohio residents who are....

Active Duty Military Personnel, Veterarrs who have been honorably or medically discharged within the last four years, Reservists or National Gaard personnel who have been deployed within the last four years, and Spouses of eligible applicants. Eligiblity is not dependent on American Legion or Auxiliary membership

Grants...

Grants are issued to allesiate cost of living expenses including food, shelter, utilities, clothing, borne owners insurance prentiums, borne repair, providing handicapped facilities in the borne, repair or replacement of major appliance. Reconnect utilities, and prevent eviction or foreclosure. To allesiate the cost of current medical expenses, or to assist in payment of outstanding medical bills. The grants also provides assistance in finding transportation for going to work, provides assistance for child care if the custodial parent must find employment,

Each application will be considered and based on the family's needs.

Grants are payable up to \$1000.00 Grant recipients may have their requested bilk partially or fully paid.

Awards are paid directly t the creditors. No funds shall be paid directly to the grant recipients.

How are moneys for these grants available?

The largest financial contributor to this fund are the local and state American Legion Auxiliary members who make donations through their local Unit in order to help individuals in their community.

Fund raisers are conducted at the local Units, and state events in order to increase the fund, thus increasing its giving capacity.

The American Legion Auxiliary partners with Corporate Organizations that want to give back to Ohio's Veterans.

If you would like to make a donation to the ALA Military Family Assistance Fund please contact the Department of Ohio, ALA



How to get started.

Applicants must contact an Auxiliary Unit in their local community to receive an application or can contact the Department Headquarters and one will be sent. Once the Veteran or Service Member or Service Member's Family has completed the application and prodel all necessary documentation then it must be sent to the local Unit for a review. The Unit is to review the applicant of Sin formation and backup documentation. Once everything is provided the Unit is responsible for sending it to the Department feadquarters for approval. The Applicant and the Unit feadquarters for approval.

If the Applicant is unaware of a local Unit in their community the Department Headquarters will assist in finding a sponsoring Unit and point of contact to assist in the grant application process.

The Military Family Assistance Fund focuses on the needs it our military personnel, young were rans, and their families, a demographic that the American Legion Family must appeal to and be active with to have a sustainable organization. It is through programs such as this that the American Legion Auxiliary can expand it services in our communities. We encourage those that participate as well as grant recipients to have a strong fixus on "Paying it funcard".



American Legion Auxiliary...helping not only the Veteran but their entire family.

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Ohio

Military Family Assistance Fund Grant Application



	Please type	e or print r	respoi	nses in black ink	•	
I. A	APPLICANT INFORMATION					
Last Name	e First			M.I.	Birth Date	
Street Address					Apartment/l	Jnit #
City		State			ZIP	
Home Phone			Cell	Phone		
E-mail Address						
Relationship to Veteran						
II. S	SERVICE MEMBER/VETERAN 1	INFORM/	OITA	N		
Last Name		First			M.I.	Birth Date
Street Address					Apartment/L	Jnit #
City		State			ZIP	
Home Phone			Cell	Phone		
E-mail Address						
Branch of Service		Rank (at	Discha	arge or Present)		
Active Duty Dates	From	То			Discharge Date	
III. C	DEPENDENT INFORMATION					
Please list the	names of all dependents living in the	service m	embei	r or veteran's hom	e.	
Full Name				Relationship to Veteran		
Birth Date				Relationship to Applicant		
Full Name				Relationship to Veteran		
Birth Date				Relationship to Applicant		
Full Name				Relationship to Veteran		
Birth Date				Relationship to Applicant		
Full Name				Relationship to Veteran		
Birth Date				Relationship to Applicant		

IV. MOST RECENT EMPLOYMENT				
What is the applicant's employment status? ☐ FT ☐ PT	☐ Laid-Off ☐ Worker's Compensation ☐ Unemployed			
Place of Employment	Job Title			
Dates of Employment	Monthly Income			
Place of Employment	Job Title			
Dates of Employment	Monthly Income			
Place of	Job Title			
Employment				
Dates of Employment	Monthly Income			
What is the veteran's employment status? \Box FT \Box PT	\square Laid-Off \square Worker's Compensation \square Unemployed			
Place of Employment	Job Title			
Dates of Employment	Monthly Income			
Place of Employment	Job Title			
Dates of Employment	Monthly Income			
Place of Employment	Job Title			
Dates of Employment	Monthly Income			
V. ADDITIONAL MONTHLY INCOME				
List your additional monthly income not related to your salar or assistance.	v. Please attach documentation of household wages, benefits,			
Unemployment Insurance	Food Stamps			
VA Pension/Compensation	WIC			
Public Assistance	Workman's Compensation			
Social Security Benefits	Alimony/Child Support			
Other (Please Specify)				
VI. MONTHLY EXPENSES				
Home (Mortgage Payment or Rent)	Telephone			
Electricity	Child Care			
Natural Gas/Propane/Oil	Medication			
Water/Sewage	Toiletries			
Food	Insurance			
Other (Please Specify)				

VII. CREDITOR INFORMATION				
The Military Family Assistance Fund will cover rent, utilities, and other necessities by providing payments directly to				
creditors. Please include copies of all bills, utility statements, or other proof of expense to be considered for payment. Account				
Name of Payee/Company			Numbe	r
Street Address				
City	State	ZIP		ZIP
Monthly Expense		Amount Past D	Due	
Name of Payee/Company		Account Number		
Street Address				
City	State		ZIP	
Monthly Expense		Amount Past D	ue	
Name of Payee/Company			Account Number	
Street Address				
City		State ZIP		ZIP
Monthly Expense	Amount Past Due			
Name of Payee/Company	Account Number			
Street Address				
City		State ZIP		ZIP
Monthly Expense Amount Past Due				
Name of Payee/Company	Account Number			
Street Address				
City	State ZIP		ZIP	
Monthly Expense Amount Past Due				
Name of Payee/Company			Accoun Numbe	
Street Address				
City	State ZIP		ZIP	
Monthly Expense	Amount Past Due			

VIII.	NARRATIVE
Please type additional in	or print a brief narrative regarding your situation and reasons for assistance. Include in this space any formation that may be helpful in reviewing your application.

IX.	RECOMMENDATION		
Please include for a grant.	de a typed or printed letter from a supervisor, cler Do not include letters from family members. Lett	gy member, teach ters can be written	er, or other mentor which recommends you n here or attached to the application.
Printed name	e		Title
Daytime Pho	ne	Email Address	
Signature		1	Date

X. DISCLAIMER AND SIGNATURE

I authorize the American Legion Auxiliary to verify the information provided on this form for the purpose of investigating the application for a Military Family Assistance Grant.

I understand membership in the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of the American Legion is not required for Military Family Assistance Grants.

I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misrepresentation or falsification of information may result in disqualification from assistance.

Name of Applicant (Please Print)	
Applicant's Signature	Date

Please include copies of the following forms and billing statements:

- DD214 or proof of active duty military service (please note* Service Member must be currently serving or discharged within the past 4 years to be applicable)
- Monthly Household Income Statements
- Copies of the bills or expenses for which you are requesting assistance
- If possible, blank payment stubs or slips to accompany copies of the bills

XI. LOCAL AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT REVIEW

The local Auxiliary Unit is responsible for assisting in the completion of the application and ensuring the applicant meets all requirements of the grant. Once the applicant has been assisted and application reviewed, the reviewer and officer of the Unit must sign off on the application. Upon completion forward all documentation to the Department of Ohio for approval.

Auxiliary Unit Name	Contact #:
Aux. Unit Representative/Reviewer	Contact Information:
Reviewers Signature	Date
Unit Officer Signature	Date

When the Applicant completed this form and the Unit has reviewed, please include all required paperwork and mail it to

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Ohio PO Box 2760 Zanesville, Ohio 43702-2760

If you have any questions, please call (740) 452-8245.

Thank you for your service to America.