Department of Ohio Plan of Action

NATIONAL SECURITY

CITATION OF MERIT

Department of OHIO

REQUIREMENT

CHAIRMAN
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REPORT DUE: April 15, 2026

REPORT DUE TO DISTRICT CHAIRMAN BY:	**MAY 1, 2027**

Department Report Form

This Form should be attached to each narrative submitted for information, Citation of Merit requirements and possible Department award. Please fill out the information completely and accurately. A Unit must submit this report form with boxes completed and answer the questions below 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 with 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 President
Phone #		Email:	Membership ID (if available)
Specific Award Name (if applicable)			

Narrative Guidelines:

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.

Answer the following Questions in your narrative.

What National Security activities and/or projects were done by your Unit that were not near a military installation? _____

_____

_____

When preparing care packages to mail to our troops, how did you utilize the community? Please explain.

_____

_____

_____

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Please check off the other things listed under National Security your Unit participated in. Please give a brief explanation of the activities.

☐ Present Blue Star and Gold Star Banners

☐ Host a blood drive?

☐ Write letters to the troops?

☐ Have a POW/MIA chair at meetings?

☐ Recognize ROTC and JROTC cadets?

☐ Other: _____

Describe activities: _____

_____

_____

_____

How did your Unit participate and recognize family during National Military Appreciation Month and local Military Appreciation Recognition?

_____

_____

Did your Unit wear RED on Friday in honor of our deployed service members? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Our ALA Service for Military Families

	Service for Military Families	Obtain Total From	Member +	Unit =	Total
Line 8	Total hours members volunteered	*Member Form Line 5*		N/A	
Line 9	Total dollars spent	*Member Form Line 6*	$	$	$
Line 10	Number of military families served	*Member Form Line 7*			

NATIONAL SECURITY

Get Involved

Purpose: The purpose of the National Security Committee is to promote a strong national defense. *Standing Rule #7, Core National Standing Committees*

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

- 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.
- Collaborate with other like-minded organizations that also support servicemembers and their families:
  - **ASYMCA –** Donate to or volunteer at local Armed Services YMCA food pantries which support servicemembers and their families.
  - **Blue Star Families –** Blue Star Welcome Week — Supporters
  - **USO –** Volunteer with your local USO.
  - **Quilts of Valor Foundation –** Award a Quilt of Valor — quilts = comfort and healing
- **OHIO** - If your members do not know of families in your area, contact your Legion or County Service Officer to offer help to a family in your that has needs.
- **OHIO** - Participate with Operation Comfort Warriors with your Legion. It is a program dedicated to meeting the needs of wounded, injured or ill military personnel by providing them with comfort items not usually supplied by the government.
- **OHIO** - Coordinate with your community organizations for donations or monetary donations to place in service member care packages. Items could include snack items, toiletry items, feminine items, etc. Pick a time where volunteers can participate in assembling and shipping care packages. Prepare the military family at home support packages. These can contain similar items for more for children and spouses. Support packages can also include restaurant/gas/grocery gift cards.
- **OHIO** - Adopt a military family. Check with a local military installation for names of families that could use some help year-round or just during the holidays. Ask for donations that will help the military family from people or businesses in your community. Place a Christmas tree in a prominent place with items needed for each member of the family.
- **OHIO** - Sponsor a blood drive in your community. Ask for volunteers to babysit children while parents are making their donation. Purchase snack items and drinks for those who donate. Invite members to give blood regularly.

Raise awareness of POW/MIAs and the work being performed by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in the search for missing personnel.

- https://www.defense.gov/Multimedia/Experience/POW-MIA/
- Host events in honor of National POW/MIA Recognition Day on the third Friday in September.
  - https://dpaa-mil.sites.crmforce.mil/dpaaFamWebPosters (available for free)
- Post a POW/MIA flag at every meeting or event.
- If you or someone you know is related to a service member classified as Missing in Action, please consider donating mitochondrial DNA to assist identification processes. For more

information, visit https://www.health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Health-Readiness/AFMES?type=Articles.

Remember to support those families whose service members made the ultimate sacrifice.

- Work with like-minded organizations to support the families of servicemembers who died during service to our country:
  - American Gold Star Mothers
  - American Gold Star Families
  - Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
- Utilize Military OneSource resources to assist those you know in need.
- Use Military One Source's – find your installation link for local information.
- Check with Military Recruiters in your community to find out the needs of their personnel and families that your Unit can help with.

OHIO - Department of Ohio, Military Family Assistance Fund (MFAF)

- 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. Units are encouraged to make donations to this fund to keep this financial assistance ongoing for those that need it. Write letters to your Legion, local businesses and community organizations asking for donations to this program.
- Promote this program in your district to encourage veterans and military families to apply for financial assistance. Ask for an officer to come and talk about some of the ways we have been able to help our veterans and military families. Pass out the brochure that has more information on how donations can be used and how to apply. Brochure and application are included in this Plan of Action.
- Give awards for the largest donations

NATIONAL SECURITY RESOURCES

- National Security Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/915563745139663
- ALA National website: https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/national-security
- TAL National website: https://legion.org
- Operation Comfort Warriors: www.legion.org/troops/operationcomfort
- Military One Source: www.militaryonesource.mil

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. **Each Unit National Security Chairman is required to submit a narrative report by May 1, 2027, to the Department National Security Chairman.**

NATIONAL AWARD INFORMATION & DEADLINE

Most Outstanding Unit National Security Program – one per division. Go online to www.legionaires.org to apply.

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/narrative. Entries must be typed in narrative form and may include pictures, newspaper articles, flyers, Facebook posts, newsletters, etc. Narrative form must be completed and mailed to Department National Security Chairman, to the email or address listed on the cover of this POA by **May 1, 2026.**

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 **May 1, 2026.**

Salute to Servicemembers Award

Established in 2003, this award honors all enlisted personnel who are currently serving our country in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force and the National Guard/Reserve. One enlisted servicemember from each branch of service as well as the National Guard/Reserve will be recognized at the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention. Recipients will attend the National Convention as guests of the Auxiliary.

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