NATIONAL SECURITY
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The National Security Program promotes a strong national defense by supporting service members and their families.

Committee Contact Information
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What can you do?

A. 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 local Legion Service Officer, they may be able to help you in 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
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.

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.
- 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 are 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 member 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.