

ALA NATIONAL SECURITY NEWS

National Security Committee Newsletter

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Happy March!

Here's the contact information for your Division Chairmen for your reports:

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If there is more information you would like to have on any portion of this program, please send an email to National Chairman Diana Sirovina at dsirovina@icloud.com.

Report...Report...Report!!

One of the most important things we do every year is submitting our year-end reports. It is our opportunity to share all the amazing things our members do for our veterans, active-duty military and their families and our communities.

There are also opportunities for your stories to be heard at National Convention this coming August. Outstanding stories of what your members have done in the National Security program may be shared at the pre-convention meeting on Saturday morning, in the Annual Report, or from the stage during the program report. Submit your stories in your narrative report and don't forget to attach your high-quality digital action photos of your members working our mission.

There are also the following awards to recognize outstanding accomplishments by our units and departments, but you can't win one unless you submit a report, with the appropriate coversheet found on the National website, alaforveterans.org on the Committees tab.

Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit National Security Program (per division)

- Deadline June 1
- All department entries must be sent by the department chairman to their national division chairman and to National Chairman Diana Sirovina at dsirovina@icloud.com, postmarked (arrived at Inbox) by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above. Members should follow instructions from their department.

Department Award: Dorothy Pearl Best Department National Security Award (per division)

- Deadline June 1
- All department entries must be sent by the department chairman to their national division chairman and a copy to National Chairman, Diana Sirovina at dsirovina@icloud.com, postmarked (arrived at Inbox) by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above. Members should follow instructions from their department.

Blue Star Banner Program

It's an American tradition to display a Blue Star Service Banner in the window of a home when a loved one is proudly serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. This is the third of three articles that will explore the program in detail.

What defines a Gold Star Mother?

When an active-duty service member dies, his or her mother automatically becomes a Gold Star Mother. It's a distinction that no mother wants, but it's one they wear proudly.

What is Goldstar Family Day?

On the last Sunday in September, Gold Star Mother's and Family Day honors the mothers, fathers, and families of fallen military service members. Also known as National Gold Star Mother's Day, the day serves as a reminder of the losses suffered by military families.

What is a good star spouse?

The terms Gold Star family, Gold Star Spouses, and Gold Star Wives traditionally refer to the surviving loved ones of military members who lost their lives in the line of duty. Gold Star Spouses Day was created to honor these loved ones.

Why do Gold Star Mothers wear white?

What is the significance of wearing white? Wearing white is a time-honored tradition of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. While black is a traditional color of mourning, the decision to wear white, rather than black, denotes the celebration of their children's goodness, innocence, and sacrifice.

How can I help a Gold Star family?

The best way to support a Gold Star family is to remember and honor their fallen hero. Gold Star families submit their Fallen Hero to the Gold Star Legacy tribute page. These tributes are a great way to share the lives and heroic stories of these brave men and women.

Additional information

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc-Website: <https://www.goldstarmoms.com>

Information submitted by:

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Juniors and National Security

Are you wondering how the Juniors can work the National Security program? There are several ways, and they are very easy. Just by earning their National Security patch through the Juniors program Blue Level. This is for 9th through 12th graders but some of your younger Juniors may enjoy the challenge. There are six activities that they can pick from. They only need to complete three of the activities. They include:



1. Blue Star Banners:

- ☐ Research the history of the Blue Star Banner and give a presentation at a unit or squadron meeting
- ☐ Present a Blue Star banner and/or pin to a Legion Family member

2. Welcome Home Events:

- ☐ Help collect and prepare items for an event
- ☐ Help promote the event within your community through your local news outlets, social media, etc.
- ☐ Create "Welcome Home" cards to distribute
- ☐ Wear your Legion Family emblem to the event and provide a picture

3. POW/MIA Remembrance Services:

- ☐ Participate in a POW/MIA Remembrance Service, a How-To sheet can be found on the National Security page of the Members Only section at www.ALAforVeterans.org
- ☐ Research the history and purpose of the ceremony, describe the flag, and chose one item from the table and describe its' meaning
- ☐ Teach the meaning and history of the POW/MIA Remembrance Service at a unit or squadron meeting

4. TAPS:

- ☐ Research the history and meaning of TAPS and teach it at a unit or squadron meeting
- ☐ Create or participate in a local TAPS event
- ☐ Present a brochure from TAPS at a meeting

5. Care Packages:

- ☐ Organize a collection drive for items to send to troops overseas
- ☐ Speak at a unit, squadron, or post meeting to ask for support
- ☐ Create cards to send with the care packages, include The Legion Family emblems
- ☐ Create materials to promote the event

6. USO:

- ☐ Research the history of the USO, what it stands for, what their purpose is, and the nearest location
- ☐ Prepare a presentation for your unit or squadron, including about Operation Phone Home and the programs available for military families

Help your Juniors complete these simple steps to earn a patch, and in the process, they will be helping our Military, Families and Veterans through the National Security program. To meet the requirements for this patch please refer to the Junior program and fill out the necessary forms and turn them into National Headquarters per the directions.

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