

Taking Care of Our People

A National Security Priority

Submitted by April Kollmorgen, Central Division Chairman



National security is often viewed through the lens of military readiness, defense capabilities, and global threats. Yet one of the most important components of our nation's security is much closer to

home: the well-being of our service members and their families. The Department of Defense recognizes that military families are **essential** to maintaining a strong and ready force.

From financial security and health and wellness resources to spouse employment assistance, parenting support, relocation services, and deployment resources, the military invests significant effort into helping families navigate the unique challenges of military life. *These programs exist because military readiness depends on family readiness.*

Military families serve alongside their loved ones in uniform. They endure frequent moves, extended separations, career disruptions, and the stress that can accompany deployments. *Their resilience helps service members remain focused on their mission.* As Department of Defense leaders have noted, a strong and resilient home front strengthens the force and contributes directly to readiness.

This understanding aligns closely with the American Legion Auxiliary's mission. We are dedicated to supporting veterans, military members, and their families while strengthening our communities and promoting patriotism. Through the National Security program, Auxiliary members are encouraged to recognize that national security begins with people. It begins with ensuring that those who defend our freedoms—and the families who support them—know they are valued, supported, and connected to their communities.

We, as members, demonstrate this commitment in many ways. We support military families through community outreach, family-focused events, care packages, emergency assistance efforts, and partnerships with local organizations that serve military-connected families. We advocate for programs that improve quality of life and help bridge the gap between military and civilian communities. *These efforts may seem small individually, but together they help create a network of support that strengthens military families and, ultimately, our nation.*

The National Security program reminds us that **every citizen** has a role in safeguarding America. Supporting military families is one meaningful way to fulfill that responsibility. Whether we volunteer, donate, advocate, or simply reach out to a military family in our community, we contribute to the readiness, resilience, and strength that national security requires.

When we take care of our people, we strengthen our communities. When we strengthen our communities, we strengthen our nation. And when we support military families, we help ensure that those who serve our country can continue their mission knowing their loved ones are not serving alone. **That is national security in action.**

As we start to wrap up this year and program - always remember this.

National security is not just about protecting our borders; it's about supporting the people who protect them.

For more information or resources available, please visit:

<https://www.war.gov/Spotlights/Military-Family-Support/>

Resources

- **National Security Committee Page on the ALA National Website:** <https://www.legion-aux.org/member/committees/national-security>
- **Program Engagement Plan (PEP) -** <https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/National-Security/Get-Involved-National-Security>
- **Facebook -** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/915563745139663/>
- **National Security email address:** nationalsecurity@ALAforVeterans.org

Red Cross Hero Care Network: A Lifeline for Military Families

Submitted by Jammie Phillips, National Vice-Chairman

When a loved one raises their right hand and takes the Oath of Enlistment, everything changes — not just for the service member but for the entire family. One of the first resources given to new military families is the American Red Cross Hero Care Network, a service designed to stand ready from day one of enlistment through every deployment, emergency, and homecoming.

The Hero Care Network provides free, confidential, 24/7 assistance to service members and their families. Its mission is simple but profound: when a family faces a crisis and needs to reach their service member *fast*, the Red Cross is the trusted organization they call. In fact, the Red Cross is the only congressionally chartered organization authorized to verify emergencies and relay critical information to military commands — an essential step in granting emergency leave.

Through the “Get to Know Us Before You Need Us” program, Red Cross volunteers meet recruits at Military Entrance Processing Stations (MEPS). These briefings ensure families understand how to access emergency communication services, financial assistance, and support during major life events such as the birth of a child. Often, Red Cross volunteers are the first friendly faces recruits see after enlisting and the last they see before shipping out — a reassuring presence during an emotional moment.

Every day, the Hero Care Network handles hundreds of emergency messages, connecting families and service members across the globe — even those stationed at sea or in remote locations. With more than 700 calls received daily, 18,000 volunteers, and a commitment to completing most cases within six hours or less, the Red Cross continues to be a steadfast pillar of support for America’s military community.

Whether navigating a family emergency, seeking aid society financial assistance, or simply needing guidance during deployment, military families know one thing: when time matters, you call the Red Cross.

For additional information, visit the American Red Cross Hero Care Network: <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/military-families/hero-care-network.html>

If you are looking for more resources to support servicemembers and their families, check out: <https://www.war.gov/Resources/Military-Support-Organizations/>



Save the Date!

NATIONAL SECURITY

★ PRECONVENTION MEETING ★



WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 19, 2026

JOIN US VIRTUALLY!
Learn about the National Security Program and what's ahead for The American Legion Auxiliary.



MEETING TIMES – ALL U.S. TIME ZONES

2:00 PM		HAWAII-ALEUTIAN TIME (HAT)
4:00 PM		ALASKA TIME (AKDT)
5:00 PM		PACIFIC TIME (PT)
6:00 PM		MOUNTAIN TIME (MT)
7:00 PM		CENTRAL TIME (CT)
8:00 PM		EASTERN TIME (ET)



**REGISTRATION OPENS
JULY 15, 2026**

More details and registration information will be available at www.legion-aux.org

Service. Not Self. ★