

National Security

ALA Dept of MI - Program Guide for 2026-2027

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WHAT IS NATIONAL SECURITY?

“National security is upheld by keeping a well-funded Department of Defense, a good quality of life for troops and a sensible transition between service and separation.” National (Nat’l) Am Legion website. Thus, the American Legion Auxiliary’s (ALA) “purpose is to promote a strong national defense.” Nat’l ALA Standing rule #7, Core National Standing Committees.

From a layperson’s perspective, two words that describe National Security are Protection and Safety. Thus, we focus on those who protect us and keep us safe, being active military, National Guard, firefighters, local, state & federal law enforcement, local and state correction officers, Central Dispatch personnel, and EMT’s. Please note that this committee’s purpose is *not* about service to veterans, so please report your service to veterans under VA&R.

HOW WE ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION

There are many ways to serve and support our military, their families, and those who protect us and keep us safe. In this guide, if you see an * by a program, it denotes an area from last year’s annual report that Units completed to send to the Dept. of MI.

WHAT THE DEPT of MI NAT’L SECURITY COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE FROM YOU

This year, we would like each Unit to either Adopt a coast guard station, or for those without proximity to a coast guard station, adopt the nearest National Guard Unit, Customs & Border Protection unit, or a military unit (hereinafter “Unit”). (See the list of all units/stations in this guide.)

Start by contacting the Station or Unit to determine their needs and wants. Like most military personnel, you may get a response that they have no needs or wants. Do not give in – there will be something you can do for them.

SUPPORTING THE MILITARY*

- Send care packages. There are two good sources: Support Our Troops and Troopons. Be sure to check with the USPS website (google USPS suspended military zip codes) to ensure that the military recipients are not in a suspended zip code area.
- Check on the needs of military families. Work with the command groups and family readiness groups from the base or National Guard Units. With the Coast Guard, communicate with the Officer in Charge or Commander. Also, see the section on supporting first responders for more ideas.
- Participate in Welcome Home activities*
- Wear RED on Fridays to “Remember Everyone Deployed”. Educate your members and perhaps, buy a RED t-shirt or signage and hang it in the Post to remind members, guests and visiting public that service members are stationed throughout the world.
- Promote and submit nominations for the Salute to a Servicemember Award.*

SUPPORTING MILITARY SPOUSES*

- Purchase or present Blue or Gold Star banners*
- Assist military spouses in getting and maintaining employment: *
 Support military job fairs in your community
 Volunteer to staff ALA information booths at job fairs for military spouses. Many spouses do not know what the ALA can do for them so we must go to them.
- Invite the spouses to an ALA meeting or host a special “meet and greet” event for them at a place most convenient for them.
- Host baby showers for expecting moms.
- Provide information to the spouse regarding the Auxiliary Emergency Fund and its criteria.

SUPPORTING MILITARY CHILDREN*

April is the Month of the Military Child and April 15th is Purple Up Day. Work with the Station/Unit’s command groups or family readiness group to determine what you can do for our military children at home and abroad. Also, May 13th is Children of Fallen Patriots Day, which is a day to honor the children left behind by the brave men and women who gave their lives while defending our freedom. Report on your activities under Children and Youth.

REMEMBERING POW/MIAs*

- Join with your Legion Post to host a POW/MIA ceremony on National POW/MIA Recognition Day, which is celebrated on the third Friday in 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.
- Raise awareness of POW/MIA and the work being performed by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in the search for missing personnel. The stories published annually by the DPAA are emotionally moving and the technology used to locate MIAs is amazing.

SUPPORTING OTHER PROTECTORS

Give recognition in some manner to our local law enforcement, firefighters, first responders, and other essential workers:

- Recognition could be as simple as thank-you cards, cookies, pizza, or a recognition dinner.
- Consider purchasing kitchen equipment for their station.
- Donate a gaming system or pay for a subscription to a streaming service.
- Stock their freezer with higher-priced items.
- Donate to their local charitable causes or a national one, such as the Gary Sinise Foundation, which serves first responder families.
- Check with your local first responders to support a local family who has lost a member while serving or help with medical expenses.
- Support your community outreach programs, such as Shop with a Cop.
- Host a holiday meal for those who are working to protect us.
- Attend local honorary ceremonies for law enforcement and firefighter of the year.
- Deliver snack boxes on 9/11 to your local first responders with a thank-you card. Those on the road as part of their job appreciate grab and go items. (Per law enforcement personnel – NO donuts, please!).

SUPPORTING OUR FUTURE PROTECTORS

- Honor ROTC and JROTC cadets and recognize their accomplishments:
- Invite ROTC and JROTC to post colors or even volunteer at Unit events.
- Present red/white/blue cords to graduating high school seniors who will be entering the military after graduation.
- Publicize and support the Legion's Trooper School

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES/PERSONAL READINESS

- Participate in CERT Training (Community Emergency Response Team).* (Contact your local emergency management agency or fire department to inquire about CERT training opportunities in your area.) Some organizations offer online CERT training courses, such as Ready.gov.
- Have a training exercise in your Post home to give training in first aid, CPR, or other types of emergency skills.
- Prepare emergency preparedness kits (Be prepared for a major emergency. In Michigan, that could include tornadoes, snowstorms, fires, extended loss of power, etc.) A simple kit could include bottled water, batteries, flashlights, blankets, non-perishable food, and a first aid kit.
- Collect supplies for emergency preparedness kits and distribute them in your community.
- Collaborate with organizations like Quilts of Valor, USO, Blue Star & Gold Star families.*
- Donate blood, work blood drives or host one, donate food for blood drives. *(Did you know that the Legion has a Blood Donation program and awards Posts and Legionnaires who participate?)

REPORTING:

Every Unit's year-end report is important. Did you know that the data you provide ends up before Congress? We report to show Congress that the need to support our military, veterans and their families, and the importance of spreading patriotism remains great in our county. Congress must continue to provide funding to keep our country strong. What you do is important so please, when asked, send your annual reports to your District Chairpersons.

Unit Reports are due to your District Chairperson by April 30, 2027. Answer all questions even if you did not have an activity in a specific area.

District Reports are due to your Department Chairperson by May 15, 2027.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS:

Agnes Dunn Citation: This citation is presented to promote the best all-around report on national security work.

Imagine Cowgill Citation This citation is presented to the Unit promoting the best crime prevention program or honoring a local officer.

Phyllis VanHill Citation: This citation is presented to the Unit promoting the best fire prevention program or honoring a local firefighter.

Salute to Service members: Units can, and should, nominate one *enlisted* service member from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force, and the National Guard/Reserves. For more information and the application form, go to Legion-aux.org to Salute to Servicemembers Award form. Each Unit may have an entry from each of the seven branches. The nomination form is due to the Department Chairperson by April 30, 2027.

At the 2026 National ALA convention in Louisville, KY, a Coast Guard servicemember from Grand Haven, MI was selected by the National ALA to receive the Salute to Servicemember award! With your help, we can achieve this honor for one of our own again for the 26-27 year.

SPECIAL DATES RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

Be creative. Publicize these dates at your Post and in your communities. Hold ceremonies even if they are just for your Legion Family. Collaborate with other veteran organizations. Host meals.

Feb 1 - Blue Star Mother's Day – .A day to honor mothers and other guardians of children who are serving in the military

Mar. 25– Medal of Honor Day - A holiday to honor the heroism and sacrifice of Medal of Honor recipients for the United States.

Apr. 5– Gold Star Spouses Day - A day dedicated to those whose spouses gave their lives while serving in the U.S. military or because of service-connected injuries or illness.

May - **National Military Appreciation Month & Month of the Military Caregiver**

May 8– Military Spouse Appreciation Day. This date recognizes the service and sacrifices of military spouses.

May 16– Armed Forces Day. Observed on the third Saturday every May, this is a day dedicated to paying tribute to men and women currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Jun. 14– Flag Day (to honor our Flag) & Army Birthday

Jul. 4– Independence Day

Aug. 7– Purple Heart Day. A time for Americans to pause to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield or paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Aug 16 – National Airborne Day

September: National Suicide Prevention Month

September: National Recovery Month

Sept. 10: World Suicide Prevention Day

Sept. 11– Patriot Day and Nat'l Day of Remembrance. An annual observance to remember and honor those who were injured or killed during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks

Sept. 18– POW/MIA Recognition Day (always the 3rd Friday in Sept)

Sept. 27– Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day. A Day to honor the families of fallen Servicemembers

Oct. 26– National Day of the Deployed

Oct 28 - National First Responders Day

November - **Military Family Month, Warrior Caregiver Month**

COAST GUARD and UNITS

Coast Guard Stations and Units in Michigan

<https://www.atlanticarea.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Great-Lakes-District/Units>

Coast Guard Sector Northern Great Lakes & Coast Guard Station 337 Water Street Sault Sainte Marie, MI 49783 Base OOD: (906) 379-7603	Coast Guard Station Manistee 523 Fifth Ave Manistee, MI 49660 (231) 723-7412
Sector Field Office Grand Haven 650 South Harbor Drive Grand Haven, MI 49417 General Questions: (206) 815-7057	US Coast Guard Facility Muskegon Muskegon, MI · (616) 850-2552 OR Forward Operating Location Muskegon c/o Coast Guard Station Grand Haven 601 South Harbor Drive, Grand Haven, MI 49417 (206) 815-6697
Coast Guard Station Grand Haven 601 South Harbor Drive Grand Haven, MI 49417 (206) 815-6697	Coast Guard Station St. Joseph 127 North Pier Street St. Joseph, MI 49085 (206) 815-6696
Coast Guard Sector Detroit 110 Mt. Elliott Street Detroit, MI 48207 General Questions: (206) 815-7246	Coast Guard Station (Small) Ludington 214 South Lakeshore Drive Ludington, MI 49431 (231) 723-7412
Coast Guard Station Belle Isle 50 Strand Drive, Belle Isle Detroit, MI 48207-4376 (313) 331-3119	Coast Guard Station Charlevoix 101 Coast Guard Drive Charlevoix, MI 49720-2103 (231) 547-2565
Coast Guard Station Port Huron 2800 Omar St. Port Huron, MI 48060 (810) 984-2603	Coast Guard Station Marquette 294 North Lakeshore Boulevard Marquette, MI 49855 (206) 815-7236
Coast Guard Station Harbor Beach 104 Richie Drive Harbor Beach, MI 48441-1042 (989) 479-3285	Coast Guard Station Portage 22911 Chippewa Trail Dollar Bay, MI 49922 (906) 482-1520 or (206) 815-7103
Coast Guard Station St. Clair Shores 24802 East Jefferson Avenue St. Clair Shores, MI 48080 (586) 778-3320	Coast Guard Station St. Ignace 1075 Huron Street St. Ignace, MI 49781 (206) 815-7230

Coast Guard Station Saginaw River 2405 Weadock Highway Essexville, MI 48732 (989) 892-0556 Coast Guard Station Tawas 600 Lighthouse Road East Tawas, MI 48730-9506 (989) 362-4429	Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City 1175 Airport Access Road Traverse City, MI 49686 (206) 815-6716
Coast Guard Station (Small) Frankfort 098 Coast Guard Road Frankfort, MI 49632-0192 (231) 723-7412	Coast Guard Air Station Detroit 1461 N. Perimeter Rd. Selfridge Air National Guard Base Mt. Clemens, MI 48045

Military Installations/ National Guard

Michigan hosts one active-duty U.S. military installation and several large National Guard and reserve training centers, with no major active-duty Navy or Marine Corps bases in the state. The key military installations in Michigan include:

Detroit Arsenal: Located in Warren, this is the only active-duty U.S. Army installation in the state and three-state region. It serves as the headquarters for the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM).

Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center: Situated in Crawford County, this is the largest National Guard training facility in the United States, spanning 147,000 acres. It features the Grayling Army Airfield and the National All-Domain Warfighting Center.

Selfridge Air National Guard Base (ANGB): Located in Harrison Township near Mount Clemens, it hosts the 127th Wing of the Michigan Air National Guard and various other reserve and support units.

Fort Custer Training Center: Situated near Augusta and Battle Creek, this federally owned and state-operated facility provides extensive training grounds for the National Guard, ROTC, and law enforcement agencies.

Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center: Located in Alpena, this base provides year-round, specialized training and airspace for military aviation units.

For more information on these installations and services, you can visit

[Michigan National Guard](#) or the [Military INSTALLATIONS](#) directory provided by Military OneSource.