



September 2020

2020-2021 National Security Program Action Plan

What is this program, and why do we have it?

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

The novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) continues to spread in many areas in the United States. In response the American Legion Auxiliary Department of North Dakota continues to monitor the situation.

Volunteer to donate or make masks for the VA Medical Center in Fargo.

- The VAMC in Fargo is asking everyone who sews to make and donate face masks to help slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Instructions on how to sew the masks can be found on our Department website under the VA&R tab.
- The VAMC in Fargo needs medical grade Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The facility is primarily in need of N95 masks, face shields and non-latex gloves. The VA has reached out to local industrial companies who might have spare PPE supplies, but they are hoping you could help with this effort as well.
- The VAMC in Fargo also needs **60 x 80** twin size blankets for their veteran in-patients. Any blanket donations would be most welcome.
- *Because things are changing daily due to new developments and challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, please call the VA directly before sending donations. Voluntary Service- 701-239-3700 Ext. 9-3395.*
- Physical Address: *VA Medical Center - Attn: VA Voluntary Services #135 - 2101 Elm St. N - Fargo, ND 58102*

Volunteer in your local communities. There are many things that we can do to show our support. Those of us who have sewing or craft rooms full of fabric scraps could put them to great use and make face masks. They are great to have available at our posts for those who need them when attending meetings. There are several locations where you can leave donated masks such as local military bases, schools, churches, BX commissary clinics, local hospitals, clinics and healthcare facilities. All are welcoming homemade masks.

Don't forget about our service members coming home. We can still have 'welcome home' events at airports, by displaying posters in the passenger exits. Also display posters thanking our service members for their service. Another gesture is to give the children of those deployed pocket flags that they can carry with them to honor their parents.

Remember and honor our Gold Star mothers! As with veterans, they too may find it difficult to stay at home alone, consumed by the thoughts of loved ones they have lost. It is a good time for those who enjoy making cards or even to buy a box of cards to send Gold Star moms and our veterans. Let them know they are not alone, and we are thinking of them. Also, there are older members of our units who would love to receive a phone call or just a card in the mail saying that you are thinking of them. We need to continue to try to keep people involved as much as we can, people love to receive mailings with updated information. Our Department Office is doing such a great job keeping us informed with Unit Mail packets

We can extend the gratitude of our nation by providing military families with Blue Star Banners to display in their windows to show how proud they are to have a family member serving in the U. S. Armed Forces. We can provide Gold Star Banners to Gold Star Mothers with honor and reverence because their child made the ultimate sacrifice for this great nation.

All Auxiliary units are encouraged to partner with other organizations that serve military families. Working with others who have the same passion as the American Legion family will help our family grow stronger so we can serve more. Please remember to protect our Brand when working with others. Do not allow others to use our Brand without proper permission.

Homeland Security - Perhaps your Unit could host programs recommended by the Department of Homeland Security that assist members and communities in preparation for and in response to natural or man-made disasters.

Team up with your local Post - The American Legion Family is dedicated to ensuring that America's POW/MIAs are honored and recognized, not just memorialized. American Legion efforts focus on the need to account as fully as possible for those still missing, alive or dead. An important way all Legion Family members create awareness and remembrance service for this initiative is through conducting POW/MIA remembrance services at unit meetings and public events. Strong, united support by all Legion Family members is crucial to bringing all our heroes' home.

Thank you for your service to veterans and military families.

Jeannie Roman, Department National Security Chairman