

# ALA NATIONAL SECURITY NEWS

## National Security Committee Newsletter

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### Summer is a time for relaxing, but we can't forget about our Mission!

This time of year, we all enjoy taking some time off to enjoying leisure activities. We do need a little break once in a while! Let's remember that even though we have submitted our year-end reports, our programs do not take the summer off, they continue year-round. Our military and their families don't get a break from their duties, so they need our support throughout the year. By remembering our Mission to enhance the lives of our military, we will always be there when we are needed, even if it is the middle of summer!

\*\* 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](mailto:dsirovina@icloud.com)

### Report...Report...Report...Yes we did!!

Your year-end reports were great! I am thrilled to share that we did have 100% reporting. It took some hard work from our committee members, but the efforts were well worth it. Your reports showed how dedicated our members are and how creative they can be. Highlights from some of your reports will be shared in our pre-convention meeting, as well as in the ALA Annual Report. I will also be presenting more of your outstanding stories during the National Security report at National Convention in Milwaukee. Thank you all for a job well done.

### National Pre-Convention Meeting

This year our National Pre-Convention meetings will virtual! Instead of having all the program meetings on Saturday morning, we will be having Zoom meetings instead. Constitution & Bylaws will be the only meeting held on-site this year. NEC meeting, Division and Department caucuses will also take place on Saturday.

Our National Security Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 PM to 7:45 PM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). The format for this meeting will be similar to the usual in-person meeting. Each department will assign an official representative, and roll call will be taken. Your department will provide information to the representative. Everyone is welcome to call in to listen, but only the official representative will be able to use the chat feature or ask questions. Outstanding Unit and Department Awards will be announced at this meeting.

## Military Spouse Assistance/Mentoring

It has been reported by the USO that the average military spouse moves 8-12 times in a span of a 20-year military career, which often results in starting over in a new location and dealing with the struggles of meeting new people and feeling a sense of community where they are.

ALA members can serve as an eMentor or as a Subject Matter Expert. The Joining Forces Mentoring Plus program is a dynamic online community where veteran mentees can receive personalized career guidance, advice, support and inspiration from more experienced women veterans, military spouses, and professional civilian women in the workforce. While the focus of the mentoring program is job search and career development, mentee spouses and veterans may ask their mentors for assistance with all challenges related to military and veteran life. Visit [www.joiningforcesmentoringplus.org](http://www.joiningforcesmentoringplus.org) and click “Mentor” or “Subject Matter Expert.”

Here are some additional resources for military spouses to explore:

Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts (MYCAA) provides up to \$4,000.00 financial assistance in pursuing degrees programs, licenses or credentials leading to portable career fields. Visit <https://mycaa.militaryonesource.mil/mycaa/get-started>

Family Service Members Group Life Insurance: (FSGLI) eligible to receive \$100,00 coverage. Visit <https://www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/fsgli/>

Military Spouse Assistance/Mentoring: Visit [www.militaryfamily.org](http://www.militaryfamily.org)

Continuing Your Journey is a 12-module workbook covering topics from self-reflection to self-growth. It provides steps for spouses to learn the tips, tools and resources needed to focus on self-care and development. The purpose of these workshops is to help pinpoint and focus on different areas of progression and help continue the journey to focus on YOU in 2022. The 12-module workbook can be found on the USO Military Spouse Assistance website. For more information, visit: <https://www.uso.org/programs/continuing-your-journey>

If you know of military spouses, please reach out to them, and offer whatever assistance you can.

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## ROTC/JROTC

What is ROTC? Reserve Officers' Training Corps is a college to military program that trains students to become commissioned officers while also earning their academic degrees. Individuals that sign up for this program commit to eight years in the military as a commissioned officer post-graduation. Also, with this program the individual will have their tuition paid in full upon successful completion of their degree.

There are differences between ROTC and JROTC. ROTC is a formal training program, where JROTC is a less formal training program. Through the JROTC (Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps) program students get an introduction into the military services while trying to decide their career paths. They also learn leadership and citizenship. Some colleges and universities offer scholarships to high school students and some offer college credits. Unlike the ROTC requirement to serve eight years in the military there are not such requirements in the JROTC.

It is a great opportunity for students to participate in but there are some conditions to be aware of.

- Before signing up for ROTC the student must be prepared to serve eight years in the military.
- The student needs to keep up their academic grades along with the physical fitness requirements, early wake up calls, and the extra classes and meetings that they need to attend. If grades fall the student runs the risk of losing their scholarship.
- The students must not have any disabilities as this program is not set up to accommodate disabilities.
- This a legal commitment and if the student fails to complete the program, does not serve their eight years, they run the risk of legal consequences including the need to pay back their tuition.

Some history on the program that is provided by Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

The concept of ROTC in the United States was created by Alden Partridge and began with the Morrill Act of 1862 which established the land-grant colleges. Part of the federal government's requirement for these schools was that they include military tactics as part of their curriculum, forming what became known as ROTC.

The college from which ROTC originated is Norwich University. Norwich was founded in 1819 at Norwich, Vermont, as the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy. The university was founded by former West Point Instructor Captain Alden Partridge, who promoted the idea of a "citizen soldier"—a man trained to act in a military capacity when his nation required, but capable of fulfilling standard civilian functions in peacetime. This idea eventually led to the formation of Reservist and National Guard units with regimented training in place of local militia forces.

Another root of the modern ROTC program comes from the "Plattsburg Idea". In 1915, Major General Leonard Wood instituted the Citizen's Military Training Corps, the first series of training camps to make officers out of civilians. For the first time in history, an attempt was made to provide a condensed course of training and commissioning competent reserve line officers after only a summer of military training.

In 1916, the provision to formally establish ROTC was advocated to Congress by a delegation from Ohio including William Oxley Thompson, President of the Ohio State University. On February 7, 1916, Ralph D. Mershon, a graduate of Ohio State, testified before the committee as a professional engineer. Present to testify as an advocate of a Reserve Engineers Corps, he expanded his remarks to argue in favor of the "Ohio Plan." Mershon noted:

*"... the transformation that will take place in one term of drill in a man just off the farm and very clumsy when he enters college, and who at the end of a term is 'set up', carries himself well, looks neat in his uniform, and has acquired a measure of self-respect, and the respect of his colleagues, to an extent he would not have had without the military training."*

Congress agreed, and the ROTC provision was included in the final version of the National Defense Act of 1916. The first ROTC unit was at Harvard in 1916.



[ROTC at the University of Florida](#) during the 1920s



Newly graduated and commissioned officers of the [Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps](#) (NROTC) Unit Hampton Roads stand at attention as they are applauded during the spring Commissioning Ceremony in May 2004

As American Legion Auxiliary members we can support ROTC and JROTC programs in our communities. Attend their awards presentations, maybe even give out certificates to the students. Your unit can hold fundraisers for them, provide care packages, but ask them what they need.

#### References:

What Is ROTC? - What does ROTC stand for and how does it work (thebestschools.org)  
Reserve Officers' Training Corps - Wikipedia

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## Operation Homefront

Operation Homefront is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to build strong, stable, and secure military families so they can thrive, not simply struggle to get by, in the communities they have worked so hard to protect.

Founded in 2002, Operation Homefront was formed to support the families of deployed service members and wounded, ill, and injured veterans. Headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, and in Arlington, Virginia, Operation Homefront has consistently earned high ratings from leading charity rating services, including Charity Navigator, which gave OH 4 Stars for eleven consecutive years for superior service and accountability. At Operation Homefront, 91% of expenditures go directly toward delivering programs and services to the military families who need it most.

Operation Homefront serves the families of deployed and transitioning service members and post-9/11 wounded, ill, and injured service members, and veterans. Operation Homefront programs are primarily targeted to junior- and mid-grade enlisted (E1–E6) service members.

For over fifteen years, Operation Homefront has provided programs that offer:

### SHORT-TERM CRITICAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (RELIEF)

- Critical Financial Assistance for food, utilities, home repairs, rent/mortgage payments
- Rent-free transitional housing for wounded service members
- Transitional Homes for Veterans

### LONG-TERM STABILITY (RESILIENCY)

- Mortgage-free homes awarded across the U.S.
- Veteran Caregiver Support program

### RECURRING FAMILY SUPPORT

- Baby showers to help new military moms welcome the newest member of the family
- Homefront Celebrations to recognize military spouses
- Holiday programs to provide meals and toys
- Backpacks filled with school supplies for military kids

At The American Legion 2009 National Convention, Resolution No. 110 was submitted by the Convention Committee:

*The American Legion Supports the Operation Homefront Organization.*

*RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky on August 25, 26, 27, 2009, That The American Legion supports the Operation Homefront Organization;*

*From this point forward we are encouraged to collaborate with Operation Homefront to create awareness in the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.*

All this information on Operation Homefront and ways to give can be found on their website:

<https://operationhomefront.org>

The ALA National Website, [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org), also has an Operation Homefront Action Guide available for download at:

<https://member.legion-aux.org/member/guides/ala-operation-homefront-action-guide>

This action guide is a great step by step informational guide to learn how to collaborate with Operation Homefront to create a mutual helpful network with the ALA and Operation Homefront to further enhance the lives of our active duty and their families.

Please share this information with your members.

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The USO (United Service Organization) was started in 1941 to lift the morale of our military and support those on the home front. To do this President Franklin D Roosevelt united several associations into one organization. Those entities included The Salvation Army, Young Men's Christian Association, Young Women's Christian Association, National Catholic Community Services, National Travelers Aid Association, and the National Jewish Welfare Board.

USO centers are located in airports, near military installations here in the United States and across the world, including combat zones. There are even un-staffed sites in places too dangerous for anyone but combat troops to occupy. The locations in airports are available round the clock for hospitality for traveling service members and families.



When we hear USO, we think of the Bob Hope shows that he did for our troops. He traveled to where the service members were to entertain them and raise their morale during wars and conflicts. He was known as the "one-man-morale-machine." Bob dedicated much of his nearly 80-year career to entertaining American troops, both at home and aboard. He liked to go straight to the front lines, delivering laughter, music and above all else, a reminder of home to our men and women in uniform, just when they needed it most. Mr. Hope paved the way for other

entertainers who have continued to lift the spirits of our military community.

The American Legion Auxiliary has put together an Action Guide to help us find ways to work with the USO in working both of our missions to help our Military and their families. The guide can be used by a Unit, Department or by an individual member. The guide includes contact information, and how to find a USO center in your community. Then the guide gives you some ideas on projects that you may be interested in doing. Some of these ideas include:

- **Working at USO centers-** Auxiliary members can volunteer to help staff the USO center, serve meals, welcome servicemembers home and plan social events.
- **Operation USO Care Package-** While many units and departments have methods to distribute care packages, participation in this program is ideal for units or departments that do not have access to names and addresses or would prefer not to collect items for care packages.

- **Military Family Care Package-** Auxiliary units, departments and members can make a contribution for military family care packages to the USO, Inc.
- **United Through Reading's Military Program-** Auxiliary units, departments and members can make a contribution for the United Through Reading's Military Program or they can purchase books for the program directly. The USO accepts only new and unused books from the pre-approved book list.
- **With you all the way-** Auxiliary units, departments and members can make a contribution for *With You All the Way* deployment kit by sending bookmarks to be included in these kits.
- **Holiday Boxes-** Auxiliary units and departments can collect money for USO to purchase Holiday Box items or they can collect or purchase Holiday Box items and host a Holiday Box assembly event or we can write notes that will be included with the shipping of these supplies.
- **USO2GO-** Auxiliary units and departments can donate money for the USO to purchase, assemble and ship USO2GO packs.

For more ways to work with the USO please go to the website noted below and the USO Action Guide that the ALA has put together.

References:

United Service Organizations (uso.org)

ALA USO Action Guide

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