



**National Security Bulletin 7
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Happy New Year to all of my Strategic Planners. I hope everyone is doing well. This is Bulletin 7. This is a time that everyone makes those New Years resolutions. What are your resolutions? One of my resolutions as an Auxiliary member is to step it up a notch and volunteer more with our Veteran's organizations. I am currently involved with a couple of organizations, but I want to make a difference in how I do that. Let us not forget why we belong to the Auxiliary and who gave us that privilege to belong.

How have you supported the emotional and social needs of active, reserve, or transitioning service members and their families? For those living near a Military base, have you assisted with information for military spouse job fairs? I know there are some units and districts that are close to Military bases and do participate in their homecomings. Please continue to participate and show them what the American Legion Auxiliary is all about.

As a Military Mom, I belong to 2 groups that provide birthday hugs to servicemembers that are living far away from their families and stationed at Defense Language Institute in Monterey. The Mom will contact me, and we organize a time to have their son or daughter meet me at the gate. I will then give them a cake, cookies, meal or whatever the Mom asks for. I then give them a hug from their Mom. It is a very emotional time but very rewarding. I was able to ask for a hug for my son's birthday when he was stationed at Camp Pendleton. The person who gave him a hug happened to be a retired Navy Veteran and also a Legionnaire. This makes this Mom's heart melt each and every time. So, this may not be a homecoming but it sure is a way to assist our service members.

DEC is just 2 weeks away. National Security and Children and Youth Chairman have teamed up to have one of the largest canned food drives benefiting our Military Children. Start collecting your canned foods and bring them with you to DEC. We will have bags available for you, fill the bags and take back with you whatever you can fit in your vehicle and donate to your local Military or Veteran food bank.

I look forward to seeing you at DEC.

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