



American Legion Auxiliary  
*Department of California*

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## **National Security Floor Report 2024**

Members throughout the Department of California spent the year supporting and relaying information for the National Security program. Units spent this year supporting military service members and their families, working with the Family Readiness Groups, and raising awareness of POW/MIAs.

Members supported military service members and their families this year by welcoming home and sending off 3,050 soldiers. Units spent \$20,334 putting together over 4,500 care packages. Members also supported

The mission of "Comfort, Hope and Proimes, which was founded by a member of Unit 222, is to provide moral support to our deployed troops through care packages and supporting soldiers families at home. Unit 222 supports this organization through monetary donations. They spent several months selling handmade fabric Christmas Stockings to raise money to purchase more fabric, treats, and cards, and to defray shipping costs. Unit 222 sent 1,035 stockings to troops serving overseas and across the country. They also helped stuff 5,000 stockings at Christmastime.

In December 12 members of Unit 552 partnered with the Pacific Beach Women's Club and held a Whoville holiday extravaganza for 46 active duty families. They bought commissary gift cards for each family, had games, food, and fun. Santa and the Grinch were both present. Members spent over 200 hours and \$3,000 in support of this event. Additional gift cards and goody bags were donated to the San Diego Military Outreach Mission for their holiday campaign for active duty families.

Travis Air Force Base is located within our 5<sup>th</sup> District. They held a ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial in Vacaville. Three Unit members provided over 30 hours of help and planning time for the ceremony. Units donated money to ensure a successful outcome. They had approximately 150 attendees which included leadership from Travis Air Force Base, elected officials, and former POWs and their families.

Unit 302 is made up mostly of Veterans, Active Duty, and their families. This year they lost 7 veterans to suicide. The Unit made sure to recognize the families and offer them a purple banner. They also worked with the families through the grieving process. They have two PTSD and Trauma Debriefing Therapists who are regularly out helping Soldiers and their families through free counseling sessions.

Unit 283 held a Spirit Walk. The Unit handed out t-shirts to participants in support of National Security. After the hike members attended a Luncheon to show support for former POW Jessica Lynch. She spoke about her experience in captivity and her rescue.

One Unit in District 27 invited forty 9<sup>th</sup> graders to a mock military funeral. Students learned how to unfold the American flag, why it was laid on the casket, what a 21 gun salute was, how to fold the American Flag, and how to present the folded American Flag to the family of the deceased soldier. Four junior members and two senior members made 40 poppy wreaths which each student placed on a deceased military grave after the ceremony.