



Our pledge to officers in the military

We celebrated Veterans Day on November 11. The holiday provides us with an annual opportunity to honor the service and sacrifice of the more than 30 million men and women who wear or have worn a military uniform for our country. Their dedication, in every era and in every part of the world, has helped secure the precious freedoms we enjoy today. For too many of our officers who are in the military, however, their road back to full active duty with the LAPD is frequently difficult and often interrupted by efforts to discipline them for acts occurring before their military activation.

Many officers who are military veterans find it challenging to return to their old jobs upon the conclusion of their deployment. We at the League frequently need to remind Department management that our military personnel are protected by state, federal and local laws upon returning to their jobs. Because problems with the disciplinary process sometimes collide with our officers' military responsibilities, the Chief of Police has requested that the League and the Department meet and devise a plan that will ensure our soldiers are treated uniformly and fairly when they are activated and when disciplinary problems arise.

As a former NCO and K-9 handler who enlisted in the USAF during the Vietnam War, I know it is a privilege to serve our country. The League and its panel attorneys are committed to removing legal barriers for our officers who are members of the military. It is our duty, our responsibility and our pledge to honor that commitment. Each time we do, we help our officer veterans who are in need rejoin their law enforcement jobs and their community. We help them reunite with family and feel hopeful for the future. We can do nothing less.

Let's share the joys of the Christmas holiday season by remembering the nearly 50 LAPD officers on active military duty overseas.

God bless and may you and your families have a very blessed and Merry Christmas! ❖