

### **The PACT Act (New addition to Basic Training History Section)**

Years of persistent advocacy on behalf of veterans exposed to poisons of burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as Agent Orange in locations previously unrecognized and atomic radiation at cleanup sites around the world led to the Aug. 10, 2022, signing into law of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act. The American Legion-supported measure, most comprehensive contamination-relief package in history, stood to help some 3.5 million veterans of the Global War on Terrorism, along with others dating back to the Vietnam War.

### **Basic Training Part 4 Organization**

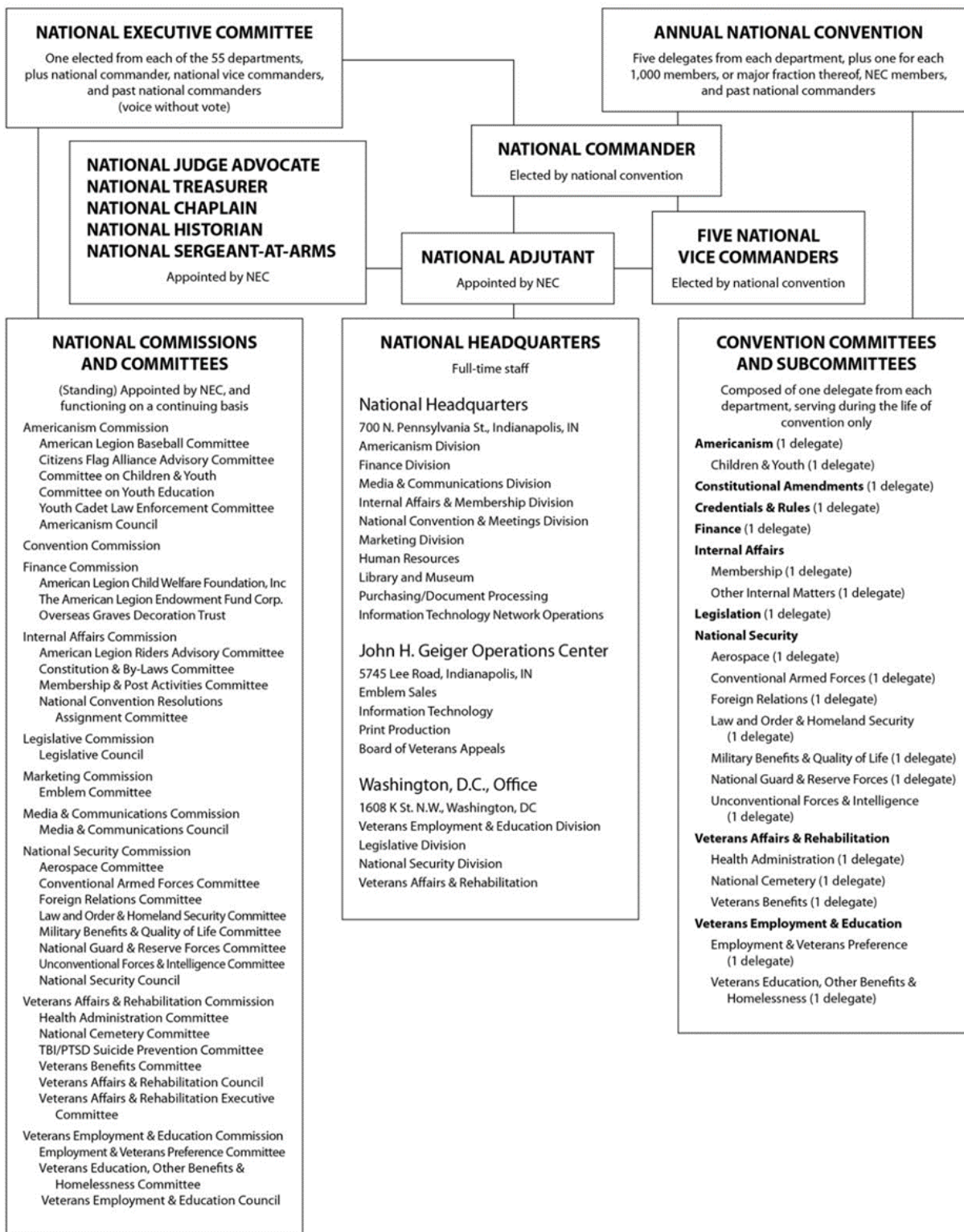
The range of opportunities in The American Legion can be linked to its organizational structure, which was established clearly and early to be democratic in nature, non-partisan and built from the grassroots up. In most cases, resolutions of the national organization start at the local post level, pass through the department and then are advanced through a commission for adoption by the National Executive Committee or the national convention.

\*\* See the RESOURCES page for more information.

Posts, districts, departments and the national headquarters are composed of nearly identical commissions, committees and offices to address the diverse interests of the organization. The commander is the top elected official and spokesperson at each level; the adjutant is an appointed officer who handles day-to-day leadership. The officer corps also consists of a judge advocate, treasurer, sergeant at arms, historian and chaplain.



# ORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



## Organization Flow

The American Legion primarily consists of three separate but interconnected entities: posts, state departments and a national headquarters. Departments have authority to create and charter intermediate groups, which may be referred to as districts, counties, divisions or zones, between the posts and departments. In no event may they invade the prerogatives vested within the post, department or national organization.

At the post level, committees typically include, but are not limited to:

- Americanism
- Children & Youth
- Education and Employment
- Finance
- House
- Legislative
- Membership & Post Activities
- Public Relations
- Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
- Security
- Graves Registration
- Sons of The American Legion

Post committees report and recommend directives and initiatives to elected post officers who then report and recommend them to the Post Executive Committee.

The Post Executive Committee reports to, works with, and provides directives to the post commander, an elected officer, and the post adjutant, an appointed officer, and to the post as a whole.

Posts provide information and coordinate efforts with district/county leadership.

District/county officers, such as district commanders and district executive committees, coordinate, inform and work with posts in specific geographic regions. They then inform and coordinate with department headquarters.

Departments, also composed of committees and officers, coordinate and work with National Headquarters, which also consists of commissions and committees with specific roles and purposes, an elected national commander and vice commanders, and appointed officers. The National Executive Committee (NEC) is the equivalent to a board of directors of the national organization. The NEC and the National Convention (similar to a stockholders meeting) are uniquely responsible for national resolutions decisions.

\*\* See the RESOURCES page for more information.

At the national level, the commander appoints chairpersons to lead commissions, including:

- Americanism
- Convention
- Finance
- Internal Affairs
- Legislative

- Marketing
- Media & Communications
- National Security
- Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
- Veterans Employment & Education

The national commissions oversee committees, task forces, councils and divisions. Commissions are authorized to draft and submit resolutions to the National Executive Committee.

The Legion's resolutions:

- Establish positions
- Formalize contracts
- Chart the organization's course
- Set policy
- Sanction relationships

The National Executive Committee meets in May, within 24 hours before and after each national convention, and within 45 days following the adjournment of the national convention.

The same organizational format is mirrored at the department and district levels. At the post level, chairpersons are more commonly assigned to run programs, like Membership, Boys State, Oratorical Contest or American Legion Baseball, depending on the size and interests of the post.