

## Interested in becoming a Key Spouse?

The ideal candidate will have the following characteristics:

- Passion, time, and energy to do the job
- Organizational and coordination skills
- Trustworthiness, dependability & maturity
- Friendly, self-confident personality
- Ability to communicate and listen well
- A positive attitude about the Air Force

### How do I become a Key Spouse?

You will contact your unit's Commander, First Sergeant, Key Spouse or Key Spouse Mentor who will go over, in more detail, the roles and responsibilities of being a Key Spouse. You will then be interviewed by the unit Commander and appointed. Following appointment, you will receive Key Spouse training at the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

### How do I contact my unit Key Spouse?

If you don't know who your unit Key Spouse is, just ask the unit First Sergeant or call the Airman & Family Readiness Center at (719) 333-3444.

*If you are a military spouse, have a passion for the Air Force, and desire to be a voice for your unit, please contact your unit's Commander, First Sergeant, Key Spouse, Key Spouse Mentor, or the Airman and Family Readiness Center at (719) 333-3444.*



# USAF ACADEMY KEY SPOUSE PROGRAM



*The Key Spouse...  
A Vital Link*

## What is the Key Spouse Program?

The Key Spouse Program enables open communication between unit leadership and families. This is done by appointing a unit spouse as a communication link to unit leadership.



## What will you do as a Key Spouse?

The Key Spouse is a trained volunteer who is chosen by the unit Commander in writing for a minimum 1-year appointment. The Key Spouse will be an official unit representative and work directly with the First Sergeant. They will keep a current roster/database of unit family members and establish/maintain contact with unit family members. They will become a point of support for unit families by being visible at Unit and Airman and Family Readiness Center activities. They will track and report trends that affect family readiness and share them with unit leadership.

## Why is the Key Spouse Program Important?

- ✓ **Promotes** individual, family, and unit readiness
- ✓ **Establishes** continuous contact with spouses/families
- ✓ **Encourages** peer-to-peer Wingman support
- ✓ **Links** to leadership
- ✓ **Provides** an informal sounding board
- ✓ **Strengthens** leadership's support team
- ✓ **Vital** to building strong Air Force communities

## How did the Key Spouse Program come about?

*The Key Spouse Program was implemented by the United States Air Force in 1996-1998 at five high deployment bases. These five bases served as a test bed and modeled their program from the Navy's Ombudsman program.*

*The Key Spouse Program was shown to have many positive outcomes, among them were increased communication between families and unit leadership and increased family resiliency in the face of military life challenges.*

## What are some outcomes of the Key Spouse Program?

- Increased awareness of installation/community resources
- Identified/resolved issues at lowest levels
- Enhanced up/down information flow
- Prepared/supported families during separations
- Increased sense of unit support
- Improved quality of life among unit families
- Increased readiness and retention
- Enhanced family resiliency

