



Key Spouse Program

United States Air Force Reserve
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Fact Sheet

The Air Force Key Spouse Program is a family readiness program intended to enhance mission readiness, resiliency and establish a sense of community among its members and their families.

The Key Spouse Team is traditionally comprised of the Commander (CC), First Sergeant (CCF), Key Spouse Mentor (KSM), Key Spouse (KS) and the Airman and Family Readiness Center (A&FRC). Commanders may also elect to utilize a Chief, Superintendent and/or a SNCO as members of the KS Team. The strategic vision is to increase resiliency and unit cohesion among military families throughout the military lifecycle.

MISSION

The mission of the Key Spouse Program (KSP) is to provide information and resources to military spouses, supporting families in successfully navigating throughout the military lifecycle.

OTHER

Why a Key Spouse? Support means different things to different people. Commanders usually view support in the larger perspective, concerned that people have good housing, medical and services facilities. First Sergeants provide support by getting things fixed - counseling, arranging appointments or dealing with the finance office. Active duty members often joke about support being "someone to mow the lawn, walk the dog or pay the bills!" The Key Spouse Program was developed in response to the unique view of support held by military spouses, based on areas of concern for spouses to include: (a) loneliness, lack of companionship (b) making decisions alone (c) disciplining the children (d) adequate social outlets (e) handling finances and (f) overwhelmingly, spouses are concerned when they feel the unit is not focused on their well being.

Spouses need (a) someone who cares enough to listen (b) to feel someone understands their experiences (c) resources in the local community (d) timely information on the military member (arrived safely, is okay, etc.).

The Key Spouse program addresses these concerns and needs by providing families with unit level involvement by a peer. While not a new concept - spouse volunteers have always existed within units - the Key Spouse Program offers a framework for stability and support to both the unit and the volunteers.

(Current as of December 2019)