



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330

JUL 6 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL SQUADRON COMMANDERS AND FIRST SERGEANTS

SUBJECT: Key Spouse Program

One of the most important responsibilities of your job is to prepare our airmen and families for challenges that exist today and tomorrow. In my 39 years of service, I've learned that the only fingerprints that last are the ones you leave on your people. I've also learned that squadrons are the backbone of our Air Force. While you lead and connect with your airmen, also remember that you have something in your tool kit that connects you to their families – the Key Spouse Program.

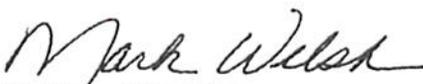
Recently, our Air Force senior spouses and our A1 team worked together to review and revise the Key Spouse curriculum and training based on the feedback we received from you during our base visits. We have asked our Airmen and Family Readiness Centers to get trained on those updates and reach out to you to ensure you understand them.

The Key Spouse program is YOUR program. Its success will depend entirely on how well YOU implement it in your squadron. I expect you to sit down within the first 30 days of command and determine what your unit needs. What is your deployment rate? How many people do you have working 12 hour shifts? Have you appointed a Key Spouse? Is he or she a visible part of your leadership team? These are just a few of the questions I encourage you to ask yourself. I hope your wing and group commanders are asking those questions as well.

Our Air Force remains busy; operational requirements are not decreasing. We are the smallest we've been since becoming an independent Air Force in 1947. Our people are working hard. We cannot expect our airmen and their families to continue doing the nation's business without our fully committed support. Our focus must be on communication and leadership. Your active leadership of the Key Spouse Program encourages a stronger sense of community through spouse-to-spouse support networks. It helps us build a more resilient force.

Our mission is to fly, fight and win...in air, space and cyberspace. Airmen are really good at what they do--always have been, and always will be. We need to be really good at taking care of their families. YOU are our family...and we are very proud of what you do!

Thanks for leading 'em!


MARK A. WELSH III
General, USAF
Chief of Staff

cc:
Wing Commanders
Command Chiefs