



Adopt an Airman Minot



They are our friends, neighbors, and for some of us, they are family. They fight for our country and make sacrifices, so we don't have to. Because of their dedication to our country and their sacrifices, the Minot community has embraced the Minot Air Force Base and the people who make it great. The men and women of the Minot Air Force Base are part of our community, and we want to make them feel at home.

The Adopt an Airman program allows community “hosts” to connect with one or more Airmen who are assigned to the base on their first assignment and provide a “home away from home” and builds resiliency and relationships through shared community engagement.

The program is designed to simply allow the HOST to include the AIRMEN in their normal activities. Family dinner on Saturday evening? Invite your Airman. Going fishing at Lake Sakakawea over the weekend? Invite your Airman. Maybe you just decide to hang out & watch the game or play cards. It's up to you; make it what you want!

The Minot Area Chamber EDC (MACEDC) coordinates the program in conjunction with the FTAC/5FSS.



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You can download the applications at these links:

[Host Application](#)

[Airman Application](#)

To submit an application, or to ask questions and learn more about the program, please email: keli@minotchamberedc.com

WHY ADOPT AN AIRMAN PROGRAM EXISTS

The Adopt an Airman program fosters supportive relationships between Minot community members and Airmen who are just starting their Air Force careers. First-term Airmen enrolled in the program are not only new to the Air Force, but many are far away from home, family, and friends for the first time. In addition to the Airmen themselves adjusting to these life changes, some are newly married, so their spouses are also experiencing the strains of these significant transitions. Adjusting to the demands of being in the military and living in a new town far away from family can be stressful and lonely.

It's crucial that our Airman feel at home "outside the gate". You as a host will benefit from an increased understanding of military life and a joy in knowing that you are making a positive difference in the lives of these young Airmen. By providing a home-cooked meal or an adventure in Minot or the surrounding area, a listening ear, or a sound piece of advice, we hope that you will develop a friendship that will last even beyond these Airmen's first assignment here in Minot.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The program has two main participants. Airmen assigned to Minot Air Force Base (MAFB) on their first Air Force assignment, called "First Term Airmen" and secondly, the Hosts from Minot and surrounding area. While most of the Airmen in the program are single, some are married and participate as a couple. Just like the Airmen, we have all types of hosts: single, couples, and families.

While military veterans, retirees and members of the National Guard may apply as hosts, a common question is "I'm active-duty military and stationed at MAFB; can I be a host to an Airman?" Because the program is designed to get the Airmen out into the community and build new relationships, and to steer clear of any potential inappropriate superior/subordinate relationships, the answer to that question is unfortunately "no."



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APPLICATION AND MATCHING

FTAC will do their best to match hosts with Airmen with the same characteristics, interests, and hobbies. To do that, every participant (host and Airman) completes an application that includes a questionnaire designed to identify those key factors. If an Airman already knows of a host they'd prefer, they can request them "by name" on the application and hosts can do the same for Airmen.

NOTE: Hosts who do not have access to MAFB are asked for information on the application to secure them that access. As part of that check (a check that has already been completed for those who already have access), the base Security Forces will run their normal National Crime Information Center (NCIC) check.

After applying, the Airman or host applying will receive a phone call from FTAC or MACEDC to discuss the application in a little more detail. This brief interview is very helpful and is often the primary factor in matching. Once matched, the host and Airman are notified of the other's contact information, and they are encouraged to meet as the first step in the new relationship.

COMMON QUESTIONS AFTER THE MATCH

The next steps are up to the host and Airman. Here are some typical questions and answers:

1. "Is there an expectation of meeting on a specific schedule?"
 - a. No. As your relationship develops, you'll find what works for you.
2. Are we as hosts expected to create 'events' for our Airman?"
 - a. No. The idea is to simply incorporate the Airman into your existing activities.
3. "Does the program ever host events for participants (hosts/Airmen)?"
 - a. Yes. These events/socials provide a great opportunity to meet others in the program, to share ideas and concerns, and to interact with committee members and base leaders.
4. "If my host invites me over to their house but I already have plans, do I have to cancel those?"
 - a. No. This is where communication becomes vitally important. Just talk with your hosts and let them know you have a conflict.
5. "How do I contact my Airman/host?"
 - a. You will be provided with both a phone number and email address. We suggest communication be one of your first discussions. Text messages



may be best, but many Airman (and hosts) may work in an environment that they aren't always able to reply.

6. "I'd like to bring my roommate to my hosts house; can I?"
 - a. That's a question for you to ask your host. Again, good communication is invaluable.
7. "How long does this last?"
 - a. The idea is to create an initial relationship between the host & Airmen. Like any relationship, we anticipate it will develop and evolve. Some may drift apart & not see each other often while others may interact often. Airmen will likely move on to a new base (called a Permanent Change of Station or PCS) after 3-4 years and we also know hosts may have changes in their lives too.
8. "I'm a host for an Airman but would like more. Can I be matched again?"
 - a. Yes. We have many hosts with multiple Airmen (either matched by the committee or introduced by their already matched Airmen.
9. "What if the match doesn't work?"
 - a. As thorough as the committee tries to be in the matching process, we know that every match might not work. If the host or the Airman feel like it's not good or there is a feeling of uneasiness, get in touch with your FTAC or MACEDC point of contact for rematch. The program's purpose is to build good relationships. If it's not good, from any perspective, we will address it.

IS THIS PROGRAM FOR ME?

The Adopt an Airman program provides unique and rewarding opportunities for both Airmen and community hosts. It is your opportunity to build a new relationship and learn more about the amazing community we call home.

Whether you are a new Airman assigned MAFB or a caring member of our community already living in and around Minot, this is the program for you.



ARE THERE OTHER WAYS I CAN HELP?

Whether you sign up to be a host or Airman in the program, there are other ways you can help:

1. Share with your friends & neighbors. We are always looking to expand the program!
2. Invite the Adopt an Airman program committee to speak at your work/social organization.
3. Put up a poster highlighting the program (available on request).

If you want to learn more, email MACEDC's military liaison at:

keli@minotchamberedc.com



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