

**WELCOME
TO THE
13th AIR SUPPORT OPERATIONS SQUADRON
FORT CARSON AIN, CO**



Gunslingers

***Bold Leaders
Always Learning
Ready Professionals***

Congratulations on your assignment to the 13th Air Support Operations Squadron! As a member of the “Gunslingers,” you will be joining the ranks of the Air Force’s premier Tactical Air Control Party unit, located on Fort Carson Army Installation in Colorado Springs.

The names of your sponsor and supervisor are provided below. Their job is to provide you information, help solve problems, meet you when you arrive, and make it easier for you to in-process and get settled. Please contact them immediately and keep them advised of your plans and relocation needs.

SPONSOR	SUPERVISOR
Name: Office Phone: Cell Phone: Email:	Name: Office Phone: Cell Phone: Email:

Welcome to the 13th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS) “Gunslingers” at Fort Carson, Colorado. I know you have many questions about your new unit and the Colorado Springs area, so let me give you some idea of what to expect. The 13th ASOS supports the Army’s 4th Infantry Division which consists of four Brigade Combat Teams. Our squadron deploys Joint Terminal Attack Controllers; Air Liaison Officers; Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Liaison Officers; and Support Experts across the globe in support of our nation’s most critical national security objectives. We also participate in Army exercises at the National Training Center at Ft. Irwin, CA and at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Ft. Polk, La.

Colorado Springs offers a unique climate, and a wide variety of activities. Temperatures range from 90+ degrees in the summer to below zero and snowing in the winter, but it’s usually fairly mild and enjoyable. We are located at the base of Cheyenne Mountain and Pike’s Peak, both a part of Colorado’s “Front Range,” which is excellent for hiking, climbing, and camping. Some of the best ski resorts in the U.S. are only a couple hours away, and there are several lakes and reservoirs for fishing and boating in the summer. There is also entertainment, with theaters, restaurants, shopping malls, and nightclubs. Denver is a little over an hour away.

To get a hint of our Mission and my Commander’s Vision for the 13th, please review the following:

Mission

Enhance the joint warfighter team by providing combat-ready Airmen who advise, integrate, and control effects from the air, space, and electromagnetic spectrum.

Vision

A squadron built on trust and united in purpose;
Bold Leaders, Always Learning, Ready Professionals—Gunslinger standard!

Focus Areas

1. Build Bold Leaders.
2. Accept risk to learn, innovate, & grow.
3. Build combat-ready professionals.

Commander’s Philosophy

Manage risk to accomplish the mission and build professionals. Push control downward, promote inclusivity, and build a sense of family and community where every voice matters...to create an environment that produces disciplined, professional, **bold** leaders who always learn.

Lastly, please notify us of your planned arrival date. We can arrange temporary lodging if you need it and have someone pick you up at the airport if you’re flying in and would like transportation. If you are married, one of our Key Spouses will be assigned to assist your family in the transition. I know that this letter won’t cover all of your questions, but I hope it has given you a better picture of our squadron. I look forward to meeting you, and again welcome to the 13 ASOS!

Sincerely,



CRAIG J. CUDE, Lt Col, USAF
Commander

Key Spouse Program Contact Information Release Form

Welcome to the 13th ASOS! We are happy to have you join our Gunslinger community!

SPOUSES: Please fill out the following information and return it to the First Sergeant, MSgt Jeremy Paxton, at your earliest convenience: jeremy.k.paxton.mil@mail.mil

The purpose of the Key Spouse Program is to keep communication and information flowing to the families and provide them with important resources. You are in no way signing up for or committing yourself to anything. You are not becoming part of a club; it is simply intended to keep you informed on programs and events available to you.

Examples of social information: holiday parties, social functions, fun events for you and your family

Examples in the 13 ASOS: unit updates, contacting you during deployment, base resources

Consent

I am making this consent within the legal limits of my authority. I understand I may change my consent, in writing at any time, except to the extent that it has already been acted on. I will contact the 13 ASOS Key Spouse/Family Liaison by email or in writing to revoke my consent.

___ Yes, I want the Key Spouse/Family Liaison to have access to the information stated below for social information, program/pertinent family information and for squadron notifications.

I prefer notification by Email.

___ I prefer notification by phone.

___ Yes, I want the Key Spouse/Family Liaison to have access to the information stated below for squadron notifications ONLY.

___ I prefer notification by Email.

___ I prefer notification by phone.

___ No, I do not give my consent to access, therefore waive my option of being notified of anything pertaining to the unit, including 13 ASOS notifications nor any social information.

I hereby grant permission for the 13 ASOS Key Spouse/Family Liaison Program to have access to my name, phone number and email address. The Key Spouse/Family Liaison is an official part of the Commander's program and has had all of the training required by the Air Force. Additionally, the Key Spouse/Family Liaison is required to keep all information confidential under penalty of law.

Sponsor's Name & Rank:

Spouse/Partner's First and Last Name:

Spouse/Partner's Phone Number:

Spouse/Partner's E-mail Address:

Spouse Printed Name:

Spouse Signature: _____ **Date:**

Key Spouse Contact Information Release Form Continued

Family Members:

Name / Age:	Birthday (optional):

Would you like to be contacted by a Key Spouse? (please circle) YES / NO

Would you like to participate in spouse or family events? (please circle) YES / NO

What kinds of events interest you? (please check all that apply)

- Family BBQs/First Fridays
- Holiday Parties
- Spouse Coffees
- Spouse Happy Hours/Dinners Out
- Local Events
- Outdoor Activities
- Other: _____

Do you have any immediate and/or specific questions, needs, or concerns that we can help you with?

Temporary Lodging: Do you need information on lodging? *Note: For Mil-to-mil ("join spouse") families, separate/sequential TLE reservations will need to be made (one under each member's name) in order to limit potential problems when claiming TLE entitlements. Each military member is entitled to 10 days reimbursable TLE expenses.

Again...WELCOME! We're glad you're here!

Find our Spouse's Group* on Facebook: *Gunslinger Spouses of the 13 ASOS*

*Note: The *Key Spouse Program* is an official program under the commander. The *Spouse's Group* is separate, and serves purely as a social network and support group.



Colorado Springs Information: Colorado Springs is the most populous city of El Paso County, Colorado. It is situated on Fountain Creek and is located just east of the geographic center of the state and 61 miles south of the Colorado State Capitol in Denver. At 6,035 feet the city sits over one mile above sea level, though some areas of the city are significantly higher. Colorado Springs is situated near the base of one of the most famous American mountains, Pikes Peak, at the eastern edge of the southern Rocky Mountains.

With an estimated population of 465,101 in 2016, it is the second most populous city in the state of Colorado, behind Denver, and the 48th most populous city in the United States. The city covers 186.1 square miles making it Colorado's largest city in area. In 2018, U.S. News named Colorado Springs as the number one most desirable place to live in the U.S., and Brookings found that it was the fastest growing city for Millennials.

Colorado Springs receives an average of 17.4 inches of annual precipitation, with snow sometimes falling during May and October but rarely later or earlier. Snowfall is usually moderate and remains on the ground briefly because of direct sun. Average January high and low temperatures are 41.7 and 14.5 °F and average July low and high temperatures are 84.4 and 54.8 °F. Colorado Springs has relatively mild winters, with large snow accumulations in the downtown area relatively rare. The city has abundant sunshine year-round, averaging 243 sunny days per year.

Climate data for Colorado Springs, Colorado													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Average high °F	41.7	45.4	51.6	59.2	68.4	79.2	84.4	81.6	74.1	63.4	49.8	42.4	61.8
Average low °F	14.5	18.0	23.9	31.4	40.7	49.5	54.8	53.6	45.4	34.3	22.6	15.6	33.7
Precipitation inches	0.28	0.35	1.06	1.62	2.39	2.34	2.85	3.48	1.23	0.86	0.52	0.42	17.40
Snowfall inches	5.1	5.1	9.5	6.3	1.4	0	0	0	0.5	3.6	5.6	6.1	43.2
Avg. snowy days	5.1	4.4	5.9	4.0	0.8	0	0	0	0.4	1.8	4.0	5.0	31.4
Avg. precipitation days	4.7	4.4	7.5	8.7	10.7	9.9	12.2	13.4	7.5	5.1	5.0	5.0	94.1

With the city located at the base of the Rocky Mountains, and its many trails and parks, Colorado Springs is a popular destination for tourists seeking scenery, rock formations and other unique geological features, like Pikes Peak, Garden of the Gods Park, Seven Falls, and Cave Of The Winds.

Colorado Springs is also home to a variety of cultural, educational, and historical attractions including the Cheyenne Mountain Heritage Center, the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, the American Numismatic Association Money Museum, Peterson Air and Space Museum, and the United States Air Force Academy.

Colorado Springs is also home to the United States Olympic Training Center and the headquarters of the United States Olympic Committee.

The United States Military plays a very important role in the city. Colorado Springs is home to both Army and Air Force bases. All these military installations border the city, to the north, south and east, excluding Schriever Air Force Base, which is located east of the city in El Paso County.

Fort Carson

Fort Carson is the city's largest military base, and home of the 4th Infantry Division. Fort Carson is host to various training grounds for infantry, armor, and aviation units and is also the headquarters of the second and third battalions of the 10th Special Forces Group.

Peterson Air Force Base

Peterson AFB is home to Air Force Space Command and the 21st Space Wing. The Air Force has critical aspects of their service based at Colorado Springs which carry on missile defense operations and development. Peterson is also headquarters for the United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), one of the Unified Combatant Commands. USNORTHCOM directs all branches of the U.S. military operations in their area of responsibility which includes the continental United States, Alaska, Canada, and Mexico.

Schriever Air Force Base (formerly Falcon AFB)

Schriever Air Force Base is home to the 50th Space Wing, which controls warning, navigational, communications and spy satellites. It is also the home of the Space Warfare Center and the home for the 576th Flight Test Squadron. It is the location of the Global Positioning System (GPS) master control station and GPS Operations Center and the US Naval Observatory Alternate Master Clock, used to synchronize GPS satellite time.

NORAD and Cheyenne Mountain Air Station

The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), a component of America's missile defense system, is located in Cheyenne Mountain Air Station. When it was built at the height of the Cold War, NORAD caused some anxiety for the residents in and around Colorado Springs, who believed the installation would be a primary target during a nuclear attack. Although NORAD still operates today, it is primarily tasked with the tracking of ICBMs, and the military has recently decided to place Cheyenne Mountain's NORAD/NORTHCOM operations on warm standby and move operations to nearby Peterson Air Force Base.

United States Air Force Academy

The north end of the city is home to the vast United States Air Force Academy grounds, where cadets train to become officers in the Air Force. The campus is famous for its unique chapel and draws visitors year round. The Air Force sports programs belong to the Mountain West Conference.

USEFUL WEBSITES	
Peterson AFB	http://www.peterson.af.mil/
Fort Carson	http://www.carson.army.mil/
13 ASOS Facebook (active duty)	Search: 13 ASOS Gunslingers
13 ASOS Spouse Facebook	Search: Gunslinger Spouses of the 13 ASOS
AF Benefits Fact Sheet	www.hqafsa.org/am/src/aneu1/afbfs.doc
BAS, BAH, & Per Diem Rates	http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/
Military Pay	http://www.dod.mil/dfas/
Thrift Savings Plan	http://www.tsp.gov/
PCS Allowances	http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/itsyourmove/
Installation Guides	http://apps.mhf.dod.mil/pls/psgprod/f?p=MHF:RELO:727273621561214
MGI Bill	http://www.gibill.va.gov
AF Personnel Center	http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/
Air Force Times	http://www.airforcetimes.com
TRICARE	http://www.tricare.osd.mil
TRICARE Fast Facts	http://www.tricare.osd.mil/factsheets/
TRICARE Virtual Handbk	http://www.tricare.osd.mil/TricareHandbook/
Dental Program	http://www.ucci.com
SGLI	http://www.insurance.va.gov/sgliSite/default.htm
AF Aid Society	http://www.afas.org/

Please feel free to contact our squadron for any assistance you may need (please start with your squadron sponsor).

	<u>Office Phone</u>	<u>Cell Phone</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
COMMANDER (Lt Col Craig Cude)	(719) 526-9435	(803) 669-6799	Craig.j.cude@mail.mil
CEM (MSgt Shane Williams)	(719) 526-1189	(832) 330-7277	shane.e.williams@mail.mil
FIRST SGT (MSgt Jeremy Paxton)	(719) 526-1177	(719) 684-6655	jeremy.k.paxton@mail.mil
EXEC OFFICER (Lt Justin Loutfy)	(719) 524-0022		justin.a.loutfy@mail.mil
CSS	(719) 526-1031		Usaf.carson.3-asog.mbx.13asos-css@mail.mil

You will work and play hard while assigned to the 13th ASOS, and I ask you to give your very best effort in everything you do! In return, we'll make your tour personally and professionally rewarding. Again, welcome and have a safe trip.