

Bienvenidos!

On behalf of the 496th Air Base Squadron (ABS), we are thrilled to welcome you to our Matador Team. Whether you will be joining us solo or with family, we eagerly anticipate your arrival.

We are a small team with a large mission, located nearest to the town of Arahal, Spain, in the famed region of Andalusia. Steeped in a rich blend of cultures and history, your assignment to Morón [mo-ROHN] Air Base is not only an opportunity to be part of a critical and prestigious mission, but also a chance to immerse yourself in the vibrant tapestry of Spanish life.

While the idea of sunny Spain might paint images of travel and leisure, it is crucial to acknowledge the challenges of being stationed in a remote location. Not only will you be part of a geographically separated unit, but you will be helping to operate and maintain one of the most strategically important U.S. power projection platforms in the world, performing many tasks normally accomplished at group, wing, or installation levels. You will also be a guest in Spain, on a Spanish-owned base, and it is likely that you will live in the surrounding area with Spanish friends and neighbors, with whom English is not often spoken. Adapting to this new environment, language barriers, and cultural differences can be daunting, especially for family members who might experience moments of loneliness.

This unique dynamic means that we do not have all of the typical Service-offered amenities that one might find at large overseas U.S. bases like Ramstein, however it presents additional opportunities. The 496 ABS is more than just a squadron; we are a close-knit family. Our strength lies in our commitment to each other and the partnerships that we foster between our Airmen, spouses, families, Spanish Ministry of Defense employees, contractors, local and private organizations, and our gracious hosts, who all contribute to the fabric of our community.

Actively participating in these relationships is essential to accessing non-traditional resources that are critical for thriving during this adventure. I encourage you to embrace the culture, connect with those around you, and explore the historical treasures of this land. If you are up for the challenge, being part of this team will afford you incredible personal and professional possibilities to grow and take on unparalleled responsibility.

Once more, welcome to our Matador Team. Whatever hurdles you face, or concerns you might have, do not hesitate to reach out. Here at the 496th, no one walks alone. Together, we will project airpower, across three continents, supporting freedom and protecting peace on behalf of our nation, partners and allies. I look forward to serving alongside you.



*Christopher E.K. Curry*

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