



Welcome to Morón Air Base

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496th Leadership Welcome Letter

LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARK D. NEXON AND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT THOMAS RIGGSBEE

On behalf of the 496th Air Base Squadron, located in Morón de la Frontera, Spain, we would like to extend you a warm welcome to the Matador Team.

This assignment will give you a unique opportunity to experience the Spanish culture. As a small unit, we take pride in our sense of community. We always look after each other, hence we've created this product to ease your in-processing and clarify any questions you may have regarding an overseas move to a geographically separated unit.

The 496th ABS offers a variety of services to you and your family while stationed here. Our squadron is home to organizations including a Booster Club, Rising Six, Top 3 and the Morón [Spouses Club](#). Additionally, our [Key Spouse](#) program will help your spouse and children with any questions or assistance you may need. We invite you to become an active member of our community and participate in events that these organizations host throughout the year.

We know that being stationed in a different country may bring challenges, but it also comes with plenty of opportunities. One of them is being able to travel and explore new cultures and countries. We encourage you to see as much as you can during your tour.

The 496th ABS leadership team is pleased to welcome you to the Matadors. Do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions, or concerns. Our doors are always open to our Airmen and community. We hope you make the most out of your stay in Andalusia and in Europe.

Best,

Lt Col Mark Nexon & CMSgt Thomas Riggsbee



Lieutenant Colonel Mark D. Nexon



Chief Master Sergeant Thomas J. Riggsbee

Adaptive and Resilient...Professionals



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Welcome to the 496th Air Base Squadron

Welcome to the 496th Air Base Squadron located in Morón de la Frontera, Spain, home of your new unit, the "Matadors", large olive plantations and some of the best tapas in the region. Please seize this unique opportunity and embrace the Spanish culture, travel throughout Spain and Europe, and create lasting memories.

Overview:

Morón de la Frontera is a town in the beautiful province of Sevilla; the city of Sevilla is the capital of the region of Andalusia. This region exudes a rich multicultural history, first-class dining options and ease of access to the rest of Spain and much of Europe.

Weather

In Morón, we enjoy a subtropical Mediterranean weather. Rain occurs irregularly for most of the year, with the typical driest part being during the summer and the rainiest during the end of autumn. This means we enjoy wonderful sunny days and stunning sunsets most of the year. During the winter, when most of Spain and Europe have colder temperatures, we enjoy a pleasant climate.

Oh, the places you'll go...

While stationed in Morón, you will have plenty of options to explore the Iberian Peninsula and Europe. Our Force Support flight organizes monthly trips to sightsee in nearby cities. Of course, you can organize your own trips and explore at your own pace. The closest airport is [Sevilla Airport](#) (SVQ). This is the main airport serving the Western Andalusia region, with low-cost carriers Vueling and Ryanair providing significant service. [Málaga Airport](#) (AGP) and [Jerez Airport](#) (XRY) are also nearby.

Rail systems provide another option to visit cities and travel. Locally in Spain, we use [Renfe](#). Use Renfe's website to book high-speed train tickets (AVE), mid-distance train tickets (media distancia), Avant train tickets, and regular train tickets between cities. You can also buy your tickets at the train station. The closest station is located in the city of Utrera.

The town of Morón de la Frontera offers a bus service to Seville. Click [here](#) for more information about the different buses and schedules available.

Another resource you may want to check out is the app [Cabify](#) to find taxis in the city. If you prefer to use your mobile apps to get around, you will be pleased to know that in larger cities like Sevilla you can use [Uber](#) without issue.

Language

The official language is Spanish. The locals are very nice and even willing to struggle through the language barrier to help. Nevertheless, you can always use Google Translate to help you communicate, as most people speak little to no English.



Culture

The Spanish culture is a vibrant and festive one. Spanish locals take celebrating Holidays, Holy Week, Christmas and other town-related activities very seriously. Try to stay up-to-date with the local holidays to avoid cancelling your plans due to local festivities.

It is worth mentioning that in the Andalucía region, taking a siesta (nap) is a big part of regional culture. Therefore, the majority of the businesses, shops and restaurants close from 1400-1700. Shopping malls and some restaurants in Sevilla remain open, but local shops in Utrera and Morón de la Frontera will close during this time.

The majority of the shops, stores and shopping centers are closed on Sundays as it is considered a family day. However, restaurants will remain open.

Typical meal hours are different from what U.S. residents are used to. Breakfast typically starts anywhere from 0800 to 1100, lunch takes place from 1400-1600 and dinnertime is from 2000-2200.

Enjoy your stay in Spain!



496th Air Base Squadron

(Services are organized in alphabetical order)

BX/COMMISSARY

There is no Base Exchange store at Morón Air Base. We **do** have a NEXmart that offers the basic necessities. The closest Navy Exchange is located at the Naval Base in Rota, about a 1.5 hour drive from Morón Air Base.

There is no commissary at Morón Air Base. The closest commissary is located in Rota as well. Some excellent local grocery stores in the area include Mercadona, Family Cash, Maxi Dia, El Jamón, Carrefour, and Aldi..

Contact information for the NEXmart on Base:
DSN: 314-722-8592

CELL PHONE

Check with your current provider to verify if it has international service and use it as you normally would. Another option would be to buy a SIM card (if your cellphone is unblocked) from a local company upon arrival and use it.

Similar to mobile providers in the US, you will see companies that offer pre-paid and contract options. In addition to mobile services, you can add internet and cable with international channels for your home.

A starting point for your research could be the following mobile, internet and cable providers: DigiMóbil, Vodafone, Movistar, Orange and Yoigo, among others.

CHAPEL

The base chapel offers religious services as well as several ongoing classes for spiritual growth. Additionally, our Chapel Team offers 100% confidential counseling and sponsors numerous programs for our community throughout the year. Some of these events include marriage enrichment retreats, family retreats, single retreats, cultural engagement trips and holiday programs.

Contact information for our Chapel Team:

DSN: (314) 722-8310

FINANCE

Our finance team offers one-on-one services for your financial needs. Once you arrive, visit this office as soon as possible to complete your travel voucher. Completing this paperwork on time will help you get your travel expenses paid in a timely manner.

The most common allowances you will receive while stationed at Morón Air Base are:

- Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) A non-taxable allowance designed to offset the higher overseas prices of non-housing goods and services. This allowance can fluctuate.



- Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) A payment to service members living in a private housing complex during overseas duty station. It is used to pay for rent and utilities.
- Move-In Housing Allowance (MIHA) A one-time entitlement payment for move-in housing expenses.
- Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA) A payment used to reimburse a member for lodging and meals.

General tips:

- Make sure you keep a copy of all your receipts from your travel days to Morón Air Base
- Visit the finance office within 5 days of arrival, the sooner the better
- Make sure you have been detached from DTS at your previous base, this will facilitate the processing of future TDYs
- Monitor your GTC card statement
- If you encounter any significant delays during your trip, contact your SATO office as soon as possible

Contact Information for the Finance Office:

DSN: 314-722-8389

Finance Office Email: 496ABS.FM.TaskerWorkflow@us.af.mil

FITNESS CENTER

At Morón Air Base we offer a fitness and sports center equipped with cardio and weight machines, saunas in the locker rooms and a racquetball court.

Contact Information for the Fitness Center:

DSN: 314-722-8126

HOST NATION ADVISOR

Morón Air Base has a Host Nation Advisor office that provides support to our community in Spanish law matters, consulate services and other related topics. In addition, Mrs. Alicia Petty Leal can help you process your Número de Identidad de Extranjero (N.I.E.). The NIE is required for vehicle purchases, to sign a Movistar contract, to establish a Spanish bank account and to enroll a student in a Spanish local high school (13 years and older). Contact your sponsor before reaching out to Mrs. Petty Leal for any questions about the local area or otherwise.

As stated previously, she is our point of contact with the [Consular Agency of the United States in Seville](#).

Contact Information for our Host Nation Liaison:

DSN: 314-722-8301

Email: alicia.petty_leal.es@us.af.mil



GETTING ON BASE | PASS AND ID

You will need your military orders or NATO orders to get on base upon arriving to Spain. During your check-in process, the Pass and ID office will issue your *Tarjeta Especial de Identificación* (T.E.I.). This is your permanent base access card. You will use this ID to enter and exit Morón Air Base and Rota Naval Base.

Visitors

When you know that your family or a friend is coming to visit you at **Morón Air Base**, please provide to the Pass & ID office the following information at least three (3) days in advance:

- Full name (s), visitors and passport numbers
- Nationality of family members (Outside EU or US Nationality may require longer processing times)
- Dates of visit
- Point of Contact for the visitor

Contact Information: Pass & ID Office:

DSN: 314-722-8115

Commercial: +34 955-84-8115

Email: 496ABS.SF.PassandID@us.af.mil

Housing

When arriving at Morón Air Base, you will have to go to the Housing Office for available housing options. Contact the Housing Office in advance to confirm current base housing policies and on or off base housing availability. Most personnel who live off base reside in the town of Morón de la Frontera in the neighborhood of La Ramira, as well as the city of Utrera.

To see what houses are available, you may visit Homes.mil. The Housing Office can show you additional residences that will become available in the near future once you arrive on station.

Contact information for the Housing office:

DSN: 314-722-8156

Click [here](#) to send our Housing Office an email

Hotel Accommodations

[Hotel Frontera](#) offers military members and visitors a place to stay during their visit to Morón Air Base. The hotel is conveniently located next to Club Andaluz where travelers can get lunch, or dinner, on a daily basis, excluding Mondays. Please make your reservation no later than 30 days prior to arrival or have your sponsor do it for you.

Contact information for Hotel Frontera:

Telephone: +34-955-84-8686

DSN: 314-722-8686

Email: 496abs.ceh@us.af.mil



Laundry & Dry Cleaners

Dry cleaning services can be found thru a local provider in Morón de la Frontera. The NEXmart staff can provide their information.

Contact information for the NEXmart on Base:
DSN: 314-722-8592

Mail

Our postal office works Monday through Friday from 1000-1800. Your sponsor should set up a box for you before your arrival. The only document needed is your Military Orders. Upon arrival, check-in at the post office where you will get your personal combination for your mailbox. The post office personnel will explain how to receive or deliver a package, put your mail on- hold due to TDYs or Leaves, and other rules.

Please make sure you check your mail regularly and take in consideration that like any overseas postal office there might be delays when receiving or sending packages.

Your Morón Air Base Address:

YOUR NAME
PSC 62 BOX ----
APO AE 09643 – xxxx

As any other overseas mail station, we do have limitations on the size and weight, when shipping and receiving. Please contact our postal office for more information.

Contact Information for the Postal Office:
DSN: 314-722-8267

Medical Care

A. Morón Medical Aid Station

We have a medical aid station that provides limited support to military members, such as sick call, short term prescriptions, and initial primary care.

B. Tricare International SOS

Make sure you and your family is enrolled in [Tricare International SOS](#) to receive the medical attention they need while overseas.

C. Santa Angela de la Cruz Viamed Hospital in Sevilla

As members of the 496 ABS community, we have an arrangement with [Santa Angela de la Cruz Viamed Hospital](#) in Sevilla. They have a Central International Patient Department that can assist members and families set up appointments, referrals, and translation services.

Prior to making an appointment, you will have to submit a pre-authorization for the service required. Call Tricare Overseas Customer Service 900-812-193, or send them an email at tricaretln.top@internationalsos.com to get your authorization. Tricare will send you and the hospital a copy of the pre-authorization. Please ensure that they

send your request to [Santa Angela de la Cruz Viamed Hospital](#) in Sevilla.

Central International Patient Department

On Call Mobile: (+34) 620-432-398

Email: imu@viamedsantaangeladelacruz.com

D. Rota

[U.S. Naval Hospital Rota](#) offers a variety of services for military members and their families on a space-available basis and should only be used if local area providers cannot provide the care required.

To set up an appointment call +34-956-82-3620.

E. Pharmacies

Are easily recognizable by the green flashing cross-displayed outside their window. They are usually open from 0900-2200 with a break for siesta from 1400-1700.

School

A. Sevilla Elementary middle School in Morón AB

On base, we have Sevilla Elementary School, which offers services for children in grades K-8. For enrollment information click [here](#).

School Address;

Sevilla Elementary School

Unit 6582

APO, AE 09643-6582

Phone: 34-955-84-8355/8464

DSN: 314-722-8355/8464

From the US: 011-34-955-84-8464

B. Rota Middle High School

High schools students have the option to attend to Rota Middle High School, which offers services for students in grades 6 to 12. For enrollment information click [here](#).

School Address

Rota Middle School

PSC 819 Box 63

FPO, AE, 09645-0063

Phone

+34-956-82-4181/4183

DSN: 314-727-4181/4183

From US: 011-34-956-82-4181/4183

C. Local School

At Morón Air Base we have a School Liaison Officer, [Mrs. Macarena Cano](#). She is our point of contact for local school related matters. If you decide to enroll your child in a Spanish school, Mrs. Cano will guide you thru this process.



General information about Spanish schools:
Academic equivalencies

SPAIN		USA
1º INFANTIL	3 years old	
2º INFANTIL	4 years old	
3º INFANTIL	5 years old	KINDERGARTEN
1º PRIMARIA	6 years old	1 st grade ELEMENTARY
2º PRIMARIA	7 years old	2 nd grade ELEMENTARY
3º PRIMARIA	8 years old	3 rd grade ELEMENTARY
4º PRIMARIA	9 years old	4 th grade ELEMENTARY
5º PRIMARIA	10 years old	5 th grade ELEMENTARY
6º PRIMARIA	11 years old	6 TH grade MIDDLE
1º SECUNDARIA	12 years old	7 th grade MIDDLE
2º SECUNDARIA	13 years old	8 TH grade MIDDLE
3º SECUNDARIA	14 years old	9 th grade HIGH SCHOOL
4º SECUNDARIA	15 years old	10 th grade HIGH SCHOOL
1º BACHILLERATO	16 years old	11 th grade HIGH SCHOOL
2º BACHILLERATO	17 years old	12 th grade HIGH SCHOOL

General Spanish School Information:

- You can choose between Day Care, Private Spanish School, Publicly Funded Private School, Public School and International School.
- Pre-enrollment for school sessions that begin in September, happens in **March** every year. In this process, parents complete paperwork with the local municipality and make a list of desirable schools.
- Similar to the US, Spanish schools provide transportation to/from school for students.
- As you know, middle school and high schools grades play an important role for your child's future education. Spain operates under a different educational system, therefore in order to validate your child's education and present proper documentation on a U.S. school, you must have the official Spanish school documentation translated by a certified translator and have the [U.S. Consular Agency in Seville](#) seal it.

Our [School Liaison Officer](#) is on base to help you navigate this, or any process related to the education of your children. She can also assist with procuring childcare within the local community. Please contact [Mrs. Macarena Cano](#) as soon as you have Military Orders for Morón Air Base. Her email is: macarena.cano_vazquez.es@us.af.mil.

PASSPORT

Upon arriving at Morón Air Base, dependents and civilians need to get their passport stamped with the Valido Stamp.

Days of service: Tuesday 1030-1130 Location: SpAF ATOC (next to building 1411).



PETS

You are welcome to bring your pet to Morón Air Base. Make sure your four-legged friend has their rabies vaccine up-to-date, an international microchip, and a valid health certificate prior to arrival. A military veterinarian and/or your servicing TMO office should be able to help you with this process, which could take up to 60 days.

Contact information for our TMO office:

DSN: 314-722-8469

Click [here](#) to send an email to our TMO office

TRANSPORTATION

Automobile

As soon as you receive notification that your vehicle has arrived and is ready to be picked-up, contact the Pass & ID office, prior to setting up an appointment for pickup, and bring proof of insurance. You will need this in order to process your "Authorization for Pick-up of POV" letter. You cannot pick up your vehicle without receiving this letter from the Pass & ID office. **Do not go to the Rota VPC without confirming your paperwork with Pass & ID.**

Driver's License

You may drive with your stateside license for up to 90 days. We strongly recommend you start the process of a Spanish driver's license as soon as possible. To initiate this process, the Pass & ID office will direct you to the Base Library where you will take the license test. This is an open book exam where the minimum passing score is 84%. Take this opportunity to learn about the different road signs, traffic laws and general traffic practices in Spain. After the test, the office of Pass & ID will provide you with a temporary driver's license while you wait to receive the permanent one.

Vehicle registration

Permanent party personnel will be issued a permanent vehicle pass for both Morón AB and Rota NS Base.

A temporary vehicle pass will be issued to personnel on leave requesting access to the base, retirees requesting access on base for a one time only basis, contract personnel with a need to be on a base, permanent assigned personnel with vehicles just imported from the states, or Europe, meanwhile permanent pass and vehicle registration is being processed.

Motorcycles

You are authorized to bring one motor vehicle. A motorcycle counts as your one (1) allowed vehicle and it cannot be sent with your household goods. In order to be able to operate this vehicle you must have a motorcycle endorsement on your stateside driver's license.

If you buy a motorcycle while stationed in Morón, you will have to take the Safety Course, offered in Rota. *****Please note, if you do not have at least two years of riding experience (licensed riding), you cannot buy a motorcycle in Spain*****



Car Insurance

You can choose a local provider to cover you with local insurance during your stay in Spain. You may also contact your current provider and ask for overseas insurance.

UNIFORMS

Our selection of uniforms, rank insignias and echelons is limited. We recommend you acquire them prior to getting to Spain.

Remember to bring your blues with you, especially your Service Dress and Mess Dress if you have one, as we have special events requiring those uniforms.



QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE:

MORÓN AB SERVICES & SUPPORT (DSN 722-xxxx)

BBVA Bank Mon-Fri 0900-1300 ATM 24/7	Banco Santander (x8587) Mon, Thurs 1700-1830 ATM 24/7	Library (x8024) Mon-Fri 1200-2200 Sat 1200-1800
Chapel (x8310) Catholic Mass Fri: 1130 Sun: 0900 Protestant Worship Service: 1100	Gift Shop (x8545) Mon-Fri 1200-1700	Car Rental Mon, Fri 0800-1600 Tues-Thur: 0800-1400 Sat 0900-1100
DFAC (x8249) Breakfast 0600-0900 Lunch: 1100-1400 Dinner: 1600-1900 Midnight Meal (uniform req'd) 0000-0100 Flt Meals: 24/7 (2-hr notice)	Post Office (x8267) Mon-Fri 1000-1800 Closed on Federal Holidays	Barber Shop (x8204) Tue-Sat 1000-1700
Gas Station (x8566) Mon 1030-1700 Wed 1030-1430 Fri 1030-1700	Dunkin' Donuts Mon-Fri 0700-1900 Sat-Sun 0800-1900	Club Andaluz (x8339) Tues-Thur 1100-2300 Friday 1100-0100 Sat-Sun 1600-2300 Currency accepted: Euros & Credit Cards
Nexmart (x8592) Mon-Fri 0900-1900 Sat-Sun 1100-1800	Subway Mon-Fr 0800-2000 Sat-Sun 1000-2000	Gym (x8307) Daily 0600-2400 CAC Access: 24/7
Bowling Center (x8420) Call to Reserve	Medical (x8069) Sick Call Walk-In M-F 0900-1100	Pool (8308) Memorial Day - Labor Day Tues-Sun 1100-1800
Spanish Restaurants: Javi's Mon-Fri 0700-1500	Spanish Restaurant Tower Bar Mon-Fri 0700-1400	Spanish Restaurant UME (In UME Compound) Mon-Fri 0800-1500



BASIC SPANISH

- Hola | Hi, hello
- Buenos días | Good Morning
- Buenas tardes | Good Afternoon
- Buenas noches | Good Night/Evening
- Gracias | Thank You
- Por favor | Please
- Agua | Water
- Soda | Coke
- La cuenta por favor | The check please
- Cómo estas? | How are you?
- Bien gracias | Fine, thank you
- Como te llamas? | What's your name
- Me llamo... | My name is
- Mucho gusto | Nice to meet you

Days of the week:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Domingo	Lunes	Martes	Miércoles	Jueves	Viernes	Sábado

Poultry and fish:

Chicken	Beef	Turkey	Pork
Pollo	Vacuno	Pavo	Cerdo
Seafood	Veal	Shrimp	Prawn
Mariscos	Tenera	Camarones	Gamba
Lobsters	Crab	Tuna	Salmon
Langosta	Cangrejo	Atún	Salmón

Entertainment:

Some shopping centers nearby:

[Centro Comercial Torre de Sevilla](#)

[El Corte Inglés](#) (several stores around Seville)

[Lagoh Shopping Center](#)

[Los Arcos](#)

[Luz Shopping Center](#)

[Aire Sur Centro Comercial](#)

[Nervión Plaza](#)

[Sevilla Fashion Outlet](#)

[IKEA Sevilla](#)

Where to buy concert or special events ticket? At [El Corte Inglés](#) stores



Some popular restaurants in our area are:

Tapas

- Besana Tapas (Utrera)
- Casa Diego Tapas (Utrera)
- Bar Alonsi (Utrera)
- Palodhu Gastrobar (Utrera)

Spanish cuisine restaurants

- Restaurante El Arco (Utrera)
- Restaurante La Abuela María (Utrera)
- Bodega La Mazaroca (El Arahal)
- Restaurante El Bouquet (Utrera)
- Restaurante La Gastroteka (Utrera)
- Casa Valentín (Utrera)
- Venta La Ramira (Spanish homemade food) La Ramira

Pizzeria

- Pizzeria Magarita (Utrera)
- Pizzeria Miffina (Arahal)

Italian

- Restaurante L'Olivo (Utrera)
- Il Vesuvio (Seville)

American restaurants in Seville

Sevilla has great options when it comes to food. However, we know that sometimes we want a savory burger like the ones we get back home. You can find plenty of Burger Kings and McDonalds in the region that offer their traditional menu, with some items tailored to the Spanish consumer.

Additional American restaurants in our area:

[Five Guys](#)

[Taco Bell](#)

[Haagen Dazs](#)

[The Good Burger](#)

[Hard Rock Café](#)

[Tony Roma's](#)

[Starbucks](#)



EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Emergencies on base dial **9-1-1** from your DSN number
Emergencies in Spain or within the Eurozone dial from any phone **1-1-2**

Morón AB Operator
Comm: +34-955-84-1110
DSN: 314-722-1110
Service available Mon-Fri 0800-2400