

## Requesting a Sponsor

When you get your assignment notification you will be assigned a sponsor from your gaining location. A sponsor can help make your transition/relocation trouble free. If you do not hear from your sponsor within 30 days of your departure, you should contact your gaining unit, Military Personnel Services office (315-225-9913), or the Airman and Family Readiness Center (315- 225-8725).

When you get your sponsor, you can help them be the best sponsor possible. First, provide complete information about your travel arrangements and arrival time. Don't expect your sponsor to know your needs — be very specific.

### Get Organized

Prepare a list of questions about the area you will be living in. By minimizing the number of questions you ask and being organized as you ask them, you'll help your sponsor respond better.

### They Need to Know

The most important things to tell your sponsor are your family's immediate needs. If you are arriving by air and your sponsor has agreed to pick you up, now might be a good time to warn them that you'll arrive with two car seats, a stroller, two sets of golf clubs, and the family pet in addition to your family members. Ask about rental cars or public transportation so you can get around until your vehicle arrives — don't expect that your sponsor will be able to drive you everywhere you need to go.

If your family includes an exceptional family member, be sure to let your sponsor know what special needs that family member may have. Although your new command may have already passed this information on to your sponsor, it is still a good idea to communicate all information and needs of your family.

If your sponsor offers to make lodging arrangements for you before your arrival, let them know of any special sleeping arrangements your family may have. If you have school-age children, ask about the local schools. If the spouse needs to be employed outside of the home as soon as possible after your relocation, inquire about the job market. One good resource for this is the Airman and Family Readiness Center which can help a military spouse with everything from career planning to writing a résumé, interview techniques, and networking. Access and review the Horizons magazine, Yokota's best information source, at <http://www.yokotasupport.com/horizons/>. Above all, remember that your sponsor has volunteered to help you, so the more you can help them help you, the smoother and more enjoyable your move will be.