



**TSgt Peggy Talley
United States Air Force**

In March of 1978, Peggy embarked on a remarkable journey when she enlisted in the Air Force, joining the 220 EIS at Zanesville MAP, Ohio. Her military odyssey began with six weeks of rigorous basic training at San Antonio TX, Lackland AFB, followed by a specialized 23-week course in Telephone Switching Equipment Repairman Electro/Mechanical in Wichita Falls, Texas, starting in October 1978.

Peggy's dedication and competence led to her promotion as Academy Team Chief in June 1982. Throughout her service, she undertook vital missions, traveling to military installations across Ohio installing, maintaining, and upgrading Strowger and XY telephone systems.

While basic training proved challenging, Peggy's most unforgettable experience was during Ronald Reagan's presidency when she visited Washington DC. There, she played a pivotal role in installing a computer bridge from the White House thorough Andrews AFB. This mission afforded her the privilege of meeting Vice President George H. Bush's Secret Service staff and visiting Air Force Two, and encounter that left an indelible mark. Peggy cherishes several mementos gifted by the staff, serving as enduring reminders of that significant moment in history.

An intriguing aspect of Peggy's military tenure is that she stood as the sole woman in her training class. In a display of equality and recognition of her capabilities, her Base Commander insisted that, despite the norm of different-sized uniform stripes for men and women, Peggy would wear men's size stripes, emphasizing her capacity to perform any task assigned to her, regardless of gender norms. Today, Peggy's legacy and the artifacts she holds dear stand as testaments to a pioneering woman's contributions in the male-dominated sphere of military service.



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