



**SHIRLEY REID ANDERSON:
A Trailblazer in the U.S. Air
Force**

Shirley Reid Anderson joined the United States Air Force on February 21st, 1961, determined to serve her country. Before enlisting, **Shirley**, eager to start her military career, wrote a letter to her State Representative to see if she could join the service before her 18th birthday. Despite her enthusiasm, she was denied and had to wait until after her high school graduation.

After completing basic training, **Shirley** was assigned to the **15th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron**, specializing in mapping and photography. In a squadron of 100 men, **Shirley** stood out as the only enlisted woman, a testament to her pioneering spirit.

In early 1963, **Shirley** was crowned **Miss March Air Force Base**, then proudly went on to represent March Air Force Base in the Miss Orange County Competition.

Shirley's contributions extended beyond her duties in the squadron. She represented the Air Force in the Bob Hope Golf Tournament, further enhancing her reputation as a well-rounded and dedicated airman.

In her military career, **Shirley** earned high praise from her commanding officer. Her achievements included completing a detailed inventory of approximately 500 source boxes weeks ahead of schedule and devising a more efficient method of controlling work orders. Her work was so exemplary that she was selected as **Airman of the Month for the Intelligence Library Section** in November and December 1961.

While serving, **Shirley** married her husband, Joe, adding personal happiness to her list of accomplishments. **Shirley Reid Anderson's** story is one of dedication, excellence, and breaking barriers in the **United States Air Force**.

Shirley Anderson

Thank You for your Service!