

## Joan Prebish

1977 Air Force ROTC Detachment 90 Graduate

**Inducted into the Stalwart Ram Wall of Fame – Fall 2023**



Captain Joan Prebish joined Air Force ROTC in 1975, six years after women were first allowed to join the program. She graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and at the time of her commissioning in 1977, fewer than four percent of the active duty Second Lieutenants were female. Air Force ROTC was very unpopular on the Colorado State University campus because of the Vietnam War and the recent draft; however, Joan chose the United States Air Force as the way she could serve the country while supporting Women's Rights and racial equality. During her 8 years of active-duty service, Joan served as a Space Surveillance Officer in the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) Space Defense Center, a Staff Officer in Headquarters NORAD and United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) in Space Operations, conducted missions in Thule, Greenland, and was one of the first Manned Spaceflight Operations Officers. Joan was recognized by the Director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and USSPACECOM for her space shuttle support and received numerous military decorations for her outstanding mission accomplishments. After separating from the Air Force, Joan became a certified project management professional with a strong system engineering background. She is an expert in tailoring program management and change management best practices to manage global, cross-functional teams in the development life cycle of software and hardware products, solutions, professional services, and processes. A selfless individual, Joan has volunteered as a United States Forest Service Archaeological Site Steward, bagged and delivered meals for Meals on Wheels, and was a United Service Organizations (USO) Ambassador. Throughout her military and civilian careers and in her community, Joan led by example and inspired others to overcome obstacles and persevere by giving their best with honor, grit, and courage.