

Lieutenant General Michelle D. Johnson



Lieutenant General (Ret) Michael D. Johnson from Spencer, IA served in the United States Air Force and former Senior Vice President and Head of Referee Operation for the National Basketball Association (NBA).

Lt. Gen. Johnson was the 19th superintendent of the U.S. Air Force Academy, the first woman to lead a U. S. Department of Defense service academy. Her previous position was the Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations and Intelligence, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers of Europe in Belgium. She was formerly the Director, Strategy, Policy, Programs and Logistics, U.S. Transportation Command at Scott Air Force Base. Johnson also served as the deputy director for Information and cyberspace policy, Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate at the Pentagon.

As an Air Force Academy cadet, Johnson was the first woman to serve as the Cadet Wing Commander (senior ranking cadet) and starred on the women's basketball team scoring over 1,700 points. She was twice name an Academic All-American and was inducted into the Academic All-American Hall of Fame in 2007, making her the first woman from the Academy and one of only six graduates with that distinction. She also was selected as the Academy's first woman Rhodes Scholar in her First Class (senior) Year and graduated with a bachelor's degree in operations and research in 1981.

Lt. General Johnson is a graduate of Spencer High School where she was a National Merit Scholar and as an avid athlete who excelled in basketball and track.

We salute Lieutenant General Michelle D. Johnson.

