



ARMSTRONG FLIGHT RESEARCH CENTER



Manny

1
00:00:00,506 --> 00:00:08,500
[Music]

2
00:00:13,266 --> 00:00:15,806
>> Aviation has always
been, since I was a kid,

3
00:00:15,806 --> 00:00:16,936
it was a dream for me.

4
00:00:16,936 --> 00:00:18,646
I would see airplanes
fly, and it was just,

5
00:00:19,026 --> 00:00:20,776
I was amazed how an airplane,

6
00:00:21,066 --> 00:00:23,156
how such a big object
could fly like a bird.

7
00:00:23,446 --> 00:00:26,556
You know, my earliest memories,
it was probably when me

8
00:00:26,556 --> 00:00:29,166
and my family were
flying back to Mexico,

9
00:00:29,906 --> 00:00:32,916
and I vividly remember
the pilot saying,

10
00:00:32,916 --> 00:00:35,036
feel free to come take
a look at the cockpit.

11
00:00:37,376 --> 00:00:40,616
And I was just amazed

at how many buttons

12

00:00:40,616 --> 00:00:41,906
and gauges were in there.

13

00:00:42,466 --> 00:00:46,026
And I think I created a love
for aviation ever since then.

14

00:00:47,226 --> 00:00:49,806
I'm Jose Manuel Rodriguez,
friends call me Manny,

15

00:00:50,296 --> 00:00:52,026
and I'm a crew chief
for the G-III at NASA.

16

00:00:53,536 --> 00:00:56,726
Prior to this, I was
working for a repair station,

17

00:00:56,726 --> 00:01:00,456
a charter company in Burbank,
California, and they catered

18

00:01:00,586 --> 00:01:04,376
to a lot of movie stars
with executive jets,

19

00:01:04,656 --> 00:01:06,986
and so my experience

20

00:01:06,986 --> 00:01:11,036
with Gulfstreams helped me
obtain a job here at NASA.

21

00:01:11,036 --> 00:01:13,376
A lot of the duties as
a crew chief is mainly

22

00:01:13,446 --> 00:01:15,266

to manage the aircraft
maintenance --

23

00:01:15,586 --> 00:01:17,626

scheduled maintenance
of the aircraft along

24

00:01:17,626 --> 00:01:20,316

with any troubleshooting,
repairs to any systems.

25

00:01:21,056 --> 00:01:23,556

Also, if there's any
support that needs to be done

26

00:01:23,626 --> 00:01:26,766

to any modifications
or to any projects

27

00:01:26,826 --> 00:01:29,776

that are ongoing
on the aircraft.

28

00:01:29,906 --> 00:01:33,046

So it's more of a management
role, but you do have

29

00:01:33,166 --> 00:01:34,566

to take accountability
for everything

30

00:01:34,566 --> 00:01:36,966

that is being done
on the aircraft.

31

00:01:38,626 --> 00:01:41,056

So here at NASA Armstrong,
we operate 2 Gulfstreams.

32

00:01:41,706 --> 00:01:44,846

The G-III is a low-wing,
twin-engine aircraft.

33

00:01:45,596 --> 00:01:49,726

It is pressurized, and it's
the transport category.

34

00:01:49,726 --> 00:01:55,346

It's certified up to, to
fly up to 45,000 feet.

35

00:01:55,526 --> 00:01:58,586

Safety obviously plays
a big role in aviation.

36

00:01:58,776 --> 00:02:01,386

You know, being a crew
chief, you have to make sure

37

00:02:01,386 --> 00:02:03,846

that everybody's
following proper protocol.

38

00:02:04,016 --> 00:02:06,516

You got to make sure
everybody's on the same page,

39

00:02:06,666 --> 00:02:07,756

everybody communicates,

40

00:02:07,756 --> 00:02:10,696

and everybody is doing
the job properly.

41

00:02:11,516 --> 00:02:15,926

[Airplane Sounds]

42

00:02:16,426 --> 00:02:18,656

You know, the pilots
depend on this aircraft.

43

00:02:19,066 --> 00:02:19,826

Not only the pilots.

44

00:02:19,826 --> 00:02:22,886

Any missions that are
being done at the time.

45

00:02:23,366 --> 00:02:26,006

For instance, the solar eclipse.

46

00:02:27,166 --> 00:02:28,476

We did a mission with
the solar eclipse.

47

00:02:31,586 --> 00:02:34,296

The unique part about
outfitting the Gulfstream for,

48

00:02:34,806 --> 00:02:37,876

in preparation for the solar
eclipse was these optical-grade

49

00:02:37,936 --> 00:02:38,936

windows that we were using.

50

00:02:39,546 --> 00:02:40,996

They were manufactured in-house.

51

00:02:41,606 --> 00:02:48,036

It gave us the ability to record
and transmit live video footage

52

00:02:48,036 --> 00:02:50,956

of the solar eclipse
from the NASA aircraft

53

00:02:52,226 --> 00:02:53,296
so that people could view

54
00:02:53,336 --> 00:02:55,726
through the NASA TV
live video footage,

55
00:02:55,916 --> 00:02:59,066
high-definition viewing,
photography and recording.

56
00:02:59,786 --> 00:03:04,206
So one of my roles in this solar
eclipse was mainly coordinating

57
00:03:04,206 --> 00:03:06,966
between pilots, and
camera crew, and personnel.

58
00:03:07,496 --> 00:03:08,446
>> Get your glasses on.

59
00:03:08,446 --> 00:03:09,786
We're going to look
out here and--

60
00:03:10,106 --> 00:03:12,046
>> Along with NASA
administrators

61
00:03:12,046 --> 00:03:14,546
that we had onboard that were
witnessing the solar eclipse.

62
00:03:14,956 --> 00:03:16,836
So obviously, lives
are at stake.

63
00:03:17,286 --> 00:03:19,436
Make sure that everything

was hooked up correctly,

64

00:03:19,846 --> 00:03:23,446
make sure all the equipment was
set up in place, and make sure

65

00:03:23,626 --> 00:03:26,566
that the crew was ready
for when the moment came.

66

00:03:28,476 --> 00:03:28,626
>> All right.

67

00:03:28,626 --> 00:03:29,596
You're on condition.

68

00:03:31,036 --> 00:03:31,536
>> It's incredible.

69

00:03:31,536 --> 00:03:35,246
>> Because we only had one
shot to film it, right,

70

00:03:35,246 --> 00:03:38,376
and it was a short window
that we had to film,

71

00:03:38,376 --> 00:03:40,506
so we had to make sure that
everything was good, so--

72

00:03:40,506 --> 00:03:40,976
>> See the ring around it?

73

00:03:41,756 --> 00:03:41,886
>> Yeah.

74

00:03:42,316 --> 00:03:45,006
>> Everything turned out

good, and lots of people got

75

00:03:45,066 --> 00:03:48,696
to view this live footage,
which was pretty amazing.

76

00:03:49,136 --> 00:03:49,856
>> So cool.

77

00:03:50,366 --> 00:03:52,046
>> What I love about
our heritage,

78

00:03:52,046 --> 00:03:54,776
our culture is we're
very family oriented,

79

00:03:55,196 --> 00:03:58,756
so family plays a
big role in my life.

80

00:03:58,936 --> 00:04:01,386
I like, on my days
off, on my time off,

81

00:04:01,926 --> 00:04:03,546
I like to spend time
with family.

82

00:04:03,666 --> 00:04:08,446
I have 3 little ones, and so
I try to spend as much time

83

00:04:08,696 --> 00:04:09,826
and do activities with them.

84

00:04:10,166 --> 00:04:13,316
I believe that if you
have a good upbringing,

85

00:04:13,316 --> 00:04:15,856

a good childhood, it'll
instill good moral values

86

00:04:16,376 --> 00:04:17,176

as a human being.

87

00:04:17,366 --> 00:04:20,746

My parents, they always tell
friends and family, "Man,

88

00:04:20,746 --> 00:04:23,616

my son, I can't believe
my son works for NASA,

89

00:04:23,776 --> 00:04:27,706

and he fixes airplanes
for NASA, right."

90

00:04:27,876 --> 00:04:28,776

That's their biggest thing.

91

00:04:28,906 --> 00:04:31,656

You know, like, I enjoy
every day working here,

92

00:04:32,076 --> 00:04:35,956

and it just gives me a sense
of pride being able to help,