



Astronaut

at a Glance

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,602
[Music]

2
00:00:09,509 --> 00:00:13,046
>> I often
tell the story about how when I

3
00:00:13,046 --> 00:00:18,385
was in...when I was in 4th
grade, I was going to elementary

4
00:00:18,385 --> 00:00:23,189
school in Austin, Texas and it
was around the time of the Texas

5
00:00:23,189 --> 00:00:26,126
Sesquicentennial and we all had
to write to famous Texans and I

6
00:00:26,126 --> 00:00:30,163
wrote to Alan Bean and got a
letter back from him and it was

7
00:00:30,163 --> 00:00:32,265
so exciting to
hear back from him.

8
00:00:32,265 --> 00:00:35,769
Astronauts were...it seemed like
they were everybody's hero at

9
00:00:35,769 --> 00:00:40,607
the time but then to actually
get something back where the

10
00:00:40,607 --> 00:00:46,246
postmark was NASA, that put
astronauts on a pedestal for me

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00:00:46,246 --> 00:00:47,247
forever.

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00:00:47,247 --> 00:00:49,949
I went up to West Point and I
just fell in love with the place

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00:00:49,949 --> 00:00:53,052
and there's a lot of history
and tradition; very rich.

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00:00:53,052 --> 00:00:59,125
That's part of the place and I
really just became...just that

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00:00:59,125 --> 00:01:01,694
captured my imagination and
from that point forward, I

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00:01:01,694 --> 00:01:04,798
really...all I wanted to do was
go to West Point from the latter

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00:01:04,798 --> 00:01:05,832
half of high school.

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00:01:05,832 --> 00:01:08,568
I ended up majoring in
engineering and I took a lot of

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00:01:08,568 --> 00:01:11,171
the pre-requisites that I needed
to go to medical school --

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00:01:11,171 --> 00:01:15,341
biology and chemistry -- and was
able to combine all of those and

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00:01:15,341 --> 00:01:21,514
still was able to go directly

into medical school and I went

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00:01:21,514 --> 00:01:24,617
to Uniformed Services University
to health sciences in Bethesda,

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00:01:24,617 --> 00:01:30,690
Maryland which is the Department
of Defense's medical school the

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00:01:30,690 --> 00:01:34,160
trains all four services
and public health service.

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00:01:34,160 --> 00:01:36,629
I graduated from there and
did my residency in emergency

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00:01:36,629 --> 00:01:40,500
medicine at the University of
Washington/Madigan and combined

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00:01:40,500 --> 00:01:43,236
with the Madigan Army Medical
Center, Fort Lewis, Washington

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00:01:43,236 --> 00:01:47,974
and after finishing my residency
after 3 years in emergency

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00:01:47,974 --> 00:01:51,344
medicine, I volunteered for the
special operations community.

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00:01:51,344 --> 00:01:54,214
One of the most rewarding
aspects...the most rewarding

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00:01:54,214 --> 00:01:58,985
aspect of my career were those

experiences I had serving in

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00:01:58,985 --> 00:02:03,223

those kinds of units doing great things for the country; Iraq,

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00:02:03,223 --> 00:02:06,259

Afghanistan, Africa and all over the country.

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00:02:06,259 --> 00:02:07,994

It has been going great.

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00:02:07,994 --> 00:02:12,298

It has been one of the most exciting times of my life, the

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00:02:12,298 --> 00:02:15,702

last year and a half just focusing on training constantly,

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00:02:15,702 --> 00:02:18,004

different aspects of the training.

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00:02:18,004 --> 00:02:21,708

We have learned Space Station systems which was a challenge

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00:02:21,708 --> 00:02:25,245

for me not having a background in mechanical/technical systems

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00:02:25,245 --> 00:02:30,517

as they relate to aircraft and spacecraft so we spent a lot of

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00:02:30,517 --> 00:02:34,420

time...many hours in classes learning about the Space Station

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00:02:34,420 --> 00:02:35,154
systems.

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00:02:35,154 --> 00:02:40,360
We have Russian several hours a
week, anywhere from 2 to 6 hours

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00:02:40,360 --> 00:02:42,595
a week of Russian instruction.

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00:02:42,595 --> 00:02:47,734
The last component is that EVA;
Extra Vehicular Activity or

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00:02:47,734 --> 00:02:52,138
spacewalking and that is another
big component of our training as

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00:02:52,138 --> 00:02:55,275
well where we learn all
the systems of the EMU, the

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00:02:55,275 --> 00:03:00,480
spacesuit, and all the systems
for using the airlock to get

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00:03:00,480 --> 00:03:03,149
outside, and then how to
fix the Space Station.

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00:03:03,149 --> 00:03:08,087
You go in that big pool; maybe
you have seen a picture of the

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00:03:08,087 --> 00:03:13,159
big tank that we do where we
actually do spacewalks in the