

A man with short dark hair, smiling, is shown in profile from the chest up. He is wearing a blue flight suit with several patches: a NASA logo on the left chest, a name tag that says "RAJA CHARI", and an American flag on the right shoulder. The background is a dark blue space scene with a view of Earth's horizon and a satellite in orbit. The scene is framed by a metal truss structure with red and blue lighting.

RAJA CHARI

The NASA logo, consisting of the word "NASA" in a stylized font with a red and blue swoosh underneath.

Lieutenant Colonel, US Air Force

461st Flight Test Squadron Commander and
F-35 Integrated Test Force Director

Bachelor's in Aeronautical Engineering & Engineering Science

US Air Force Academy

Master's in Aeronautics and Astronautics

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

US Naval Test Pilot School

1
00:00:04,070 --> 00:00:02,629
i'm raj achary the commander of the nasa

2
00:00:06,550 --> 00:00:04,080
spacex crew 3 mission to the

3
00:00:08,950 --> 00:00:06,560
international space station i was born

4
00:00:11,350 --> 00:00:08,960
in milwaukee wisconsin but moved within

5
00:00:12,789 --> 00:00:11,360
a week to cedar falls iowa my dad had

6
00:00:14,390 --> 00:00:12,799
come to the united states to get his

7
00:00:15,749 --> 00:00:14,400
master's degree where he met my mom he

8
00:00:17,109 --> 00:00:15,759
got a job at john deere and that's why

9
00:00:18,470 --> 00:00:17,119
they moved to iowa

10
00:00:21,029 --> 00:00:18,480
one of the biggest things i took from my

11
00:00:23,109 --> 00:00:21,039
iowa upbringing is sort of that inherent

12
00:00:25,029 --> 00:00:23,119
community strength and the interest

13
00:00:28,310 --> 00:00:25,039

people had and everyone else succeeding

14

00:00:32,470 --> 00:00:30,310

i think i first became interested in

15

00:00:34,229 --> 00:00:32,480

flying at a pretty young age

16

00:00:35,750 --> 00:00:34,239

my mom has pictures of me from back as a

17

00:00:36,870 --> 00:00:35,760

kindergartner being really interested in

18

00:00:38,790 --> 00:00:36,880

space flight

19

00:00:40,630 --> 00:00:38,800

and i think as i got into junior high

20

00:00:42,869 --> 00:00:40,640

the idea of going to the air force or

21

00:00:45,190 --> 00:00:42,879

flying became very appealing to me as

22

00:00:46,389 --> 00:00:45,200

well and so astronomical engineering was

23

00:00:48,310 --> 00:00:46,399

a great way to be involved in the

24

00:00:50,069 --> 00:00:48,320

engineering for space

25

00:00:51,910 --> 00:00:50,079

so at the air force academy there's all

26
00:00:53,350 --> 00:00:51,920
kinds of different engineering paths you

27
00:00:55,350 --> 00:00:53,360
have the opportunity to continue on and

28
00:00:57,110 --> 00:00:55,360
do graduate school programs it allowed

29
00:00:59,189 --> 00:00:57,120
me to go on and get a graduate degree at

30
00:01:01,349 --> 00:00:59,199
mit and it was a wonderful opportunity

31
00:01:03,270 --> 00:01:01,359
to take it to the next level one path

32
00:01:04,469 --> 00:01:03,280
that is pilot training in my life and

33
00:01:06,390 --> 00:01:04,479
another path is to continue this

34
00:01:08,390 --> 00:01:06,400
engineering i found i really liked

35
00:01:10,310 --> 00:01:08,400
engineering a lot more than i thought i

36
00:01:11,830 --> 00:01:10,320
would and then a friend of mine had

37
00:01:13,190 --> 00:01:11,840
started talking about test pod school in

38
00:01:19,670 --> 00:01:13,200

which i realized oh that's actually a

39

00:01:22,870 --> 00:01:21,749

so for me i think i first started

40

00:01:25,270 --> 00:01:22,880

thinking about the idea of being an

41

00:01:27,510 --> 00:01:25,280

astronaut was about the 2008 time frame

42

00:01:29,670 --> 00:01:27,520

but it dawned on me that oh man this is

43

00:01:31,670 --> 00:01:29,680

not just some weird like i want to be an

44

00:01:33,190 --> 00:01:31,680

astronaut when i grow up it's actually

45

00:01:33,680 --> 00:01:33,200

in the path that's realistically

46

00:01:34,870 --> 00:01:33,690

achievable

47

00:01:37,270 --> 00:01:34,880

[Applause]

48

00:01:39,350 --> 00:01:37,280

so what do you say how about i introduce

49

00:01:41,749 --> 00:01:39,360

the 2017

50

00:01:44,069 --> 00:01:41,759

astronaut candidates

51
00:01:46,149 --> 00:01:44,079
raja is a 39 year old lieutenant colonel

52
00:01:47,990 --> 00:01:46,159
in the united states air force from

53
00:01:50,310 --> 00:01:48,000
cedar falls iowa

54
00:01:52,710 --> 00:01:50,320
and so that was how i wound up on the

55
00:01:54,550 --> 00:01:52,720
path of applying

56
00:01:57,030 --> 00:01:54,560
so on the spacex vehicle my job as a

57
00:01:59,109 --> 00:01:57,040
commander is a few fold i don't need to

58
00:02:00,149 --> 00:01:59,119
tell kayla tom or matthias how to do

59
00:02:01,830 --> 00:02:00,159
their jobs they already know how to do

60
00:02:02,950 --> 00:02:01,840
their jobs that's really more a matter

61
00:02:04,310 --> 00:02:02,960
of for that one percent of the time

62
00:02:06,149 --> 00:02:04,320
where something off nominal happened

63
00:02:07,670 --> 00:02:06,159

what is the best split of resources of

64

00:02:08,949 --> 00:02:07,680

you know what is the best interactions

65

00:02:11,589 --> 00:02:08,959

between those players to get the best

66

00:02:13,510 --> 00:02:11,599

result and so managing those different

67

00:02:15,270 --> 00:02:13,520

uh pieces of the puzzle is really i

68

00:02:17,430 --> 00:02:15,280

think what the crew part of the

69

00:02:18,869 --> 00:02:17,440

commander job is

70

00:02:21,350 --> 00:02:18,879

it's really mind-boggling when you think

71

00:02:22,949 --> 00:02:21,360

about how much effort it takes to put

72

00:02:23,910 --> 00:02:22,959

people in space and then to sustain them

73

00:02:26,309 --> 00:02:23,920

in space

74

00:02:28,229 --> 00:02:26,319

i think what's cool and why i like nasa

75

00:02:29,750 --> 00:02:28,239

is none of those people are doing it for

76

00:02:30,869 --> 00:02:29,760

the money

77

00:02:31,990 --> 00:02:30,879

they're doing it because they believe in

78

00:02:33,830 --> 00:02:32,000

the mission they're doing it please

79

00:02:35,030 --> 00:02:33,840

because they believe in in solving

80

00:02:36,309 --> 00:02:35,040

humanities problems and pushing

81

00:02:38,229 --> 00:02:36,319

exploration that's the reason people are

82

00:02:40,229 --> 00:02:38,239

doing it i think if anything it's taught

83

00:02:41,830 --> 00:02:40,239

us that we as humans have this great

84

00:02:43,350 --> 00:02:41,840

ability to endure through just about

85

00:02:46,700 --> 00:02:43,360

anything just have to put your mind to