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00:00:05,350 --> 00:00:13,690

My biggest surprise in going to space is basically that I didn't want to come home.

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00:00:13,690 --> 00:00:19,939

After a while you just start to think differently and I think that that same wild thinking leads

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00:00:19,939 --> 00:00:25,480

to innovation and ideas that you wouldn't have been able to have if you weren't in some

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00:00:25,480 --> 00:00:26,970

place so different.

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In the astronaut office, we realize that if everything goes right then we actually get

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00:00:33,730 --> 00:00:39,429

to go and live on the space station and do experiments that can't be done anywhere down

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00:00:39,429 --> 00:00:43,149

here on earth, learn things that can't be learned here on Earth.

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00:00:43,149 --> 00:00:50,789

We are actually paving the way to go to Mars, to make sure that we are designing ships that

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00:00:50,789 --> 00:00:56,859

people will be able to actually live in, journey in, get to Mars, stay on Mars.

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00:00:56,859 --> 00:01:02,379

All these things like living on the station right now, it's a step towards going to Mars.

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00:01:02,379 --> 00:01:08,280

Commercial crew, having a more affordable, flexible and efficient way to get people and

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stuff up and down to the space station, that's exactly what NASA should be doing right now,

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00:01:13,200 --> 00:01:19,640

and we are and it's because that space station is our test bed on the journey to Mars. That's

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our way to find out how things work, do they work.

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We took a lot of chances with that Orion test launch. We wanted to see, do we really have

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to design in the most conservative way or can we actually get close to the edge of the

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00:01:34,439 --> 00:01:39,070

envelope. That's what that launch was about and we could actually see it happening, it

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00:01:39,070 --> 00:01:40,570

was so inspirational.

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I came to the astronaut office in 1992 and that was a long time ago. And you'd think

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00:01:48,840 --> 00:01:54,659

that after a mission or two or however many you'd be done. I will tell you that most

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00:01:54,659 --> 00:02:02,799

of us are never, ever done and part of that is because we are part of the NASA family

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00:02:02,799 --> 00:02:08,509  
which includes all the people who make this work. It's not just people who work for NASA.

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00:02:08,509 --> 00:02:13,210  
It's people who work for our contractors, it's our commercial partners, it's the huge

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00:02:13,210 --> 00:02:22,290  
family of people on the Earth who think that living and working in space is normal and

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00:02:22,290 --> 00:02:23,280  
essential.

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00:02:23,280 --> 00:02:30,880  
I think as a member of the NASA team, every single person on this team has a passion for

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00:02:30,880 --> 00:02:36,350  
exploration and a deep-seated knowledge that it's going to happen.

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00:02:36,350 --> 00:02:44,280  
I love being part of this journey, this progression, this how we're living on the space station,

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00:02:44,280 --> 00:02:48,310  
we're actually practicing the technologies that we need to go further, to get to Mars.