

Aliya Bora

SLUG: JESSICA MEIR PKG

INTRO:

AFTER TALKING TO THOUSANDS OF CANDIDATES,
NASA JUST ANNOUNCED ITS INCOMING CLASS OF
ASTRONAUTS.

ONE OF THEM HAS A SPECIAL CONNECTION TO
AMERICA'S FINEST CITY.

TWO WEEKS AGO, JESSICA MEIR GOT THE CALL OF
A LIFETIME.

SOT IN:

CG: JESSICA MEIR

INQ: My heart was...

OUTQ: time's a charm

RUNS: 0:15 sec

(***SOT IN***)

"My heart was beating so fast. I was really just
sitting there wondering what was going to happen.
I answered the phone and it was Jenna Cavandi
who was in charge of the selection committee this
year. And she said 'Well, Jessica, second time's a
charm.' "

SOT OUT:

(***SOT OUT***)

THAT CALL CONFIRMED THAT MEIR WOULD BE
JOINING NASA'S 2013 ASTRONAUT CLASS... AFTER
BEING TURNED DOWN THE FIRST TIME SHE
APPLIED IN 2009.

35-YEAR-OLD MEIR'S CURRENT CAREER IS A FAR
CRY FROM THAT OF AN ASTRONAUT...

SHE CURRENTLY WORKS AS AN ASSISTANT
PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AT HARVARD MEDICAL
SCHOOL.

BUT JESSICA IS NO STRANGER TO SAN DIEGO.

SHE EARNED HER P-H-D IN BIOLOGY AT THE
SCRIPPS INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY AND
FEELS HER EDUCATION PREPARED HER FOR THE
SPACE PROGRAM.

SOT IN:

INQ: I did a

(***SOT IN***)

"I did a lot of field work on the sea ice of the

OUTQ: candidate as well
RUNS: 0:17 sec

SOT OUT:

Antarctic and beaches of California and that really helped adapt me for situations when you are faced with both a physical and mental challenge together...I think that will carry over into my role as an astronaut candidate as well."
(***SOT OUT***)

MEIR IS PART OF CLASS THAT HAS MADE NASA HISTORY.

HALF OF THE INCOMING RECRUITSS ARE WOMEN, MAKING THIS THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF FEMALES EVER SELECTED FOR A SPACE CLASS.

SOT IN:
INQ: I really like
OUTQ: women in particular
RUNS: 0:08 Seconds
SOT OUT:

(***SOT IN***)
"I really like speaking to the public and children and trying to inspire this next generation of scientists and explorers and women in particular."
(***SOT OUT***)

NOW MEIR WILL HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL TO SHARE IN THOSE TALKS, AS SHE JOINS SEVEN OTHER ASTRONAUTS WHO MADE THE CUT OUT OF A POOL OF SIX THOUSAND APPLICANTS.

SOT IN:
INQ: I dreamt of being
OUTQ: it since then
RUNS: 0:07 Sec
SOT OUT:

(***SOT IN***)
"I dreamt of being an astronaut all my life really. I was about 5 years old when I said I first wanted to be an astronaut so I've pretty much stuck with it since then."
(***SOT OUT***)

TAG:

THIS CLASS OF ASTRONAUTS WILL BE THE FIRST TO GO ON A MISSION TO AN ASTEROID, AND THEN ON TO MARS.