

# ASTRONAUT BIOGRAPHY



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center  
Houston, Texas 77058

March 2016



## Nicole Aunapu Mann

(LtCol, U.S. Marine Corps) NASA Astronaut

### Summary:

Nicole A. Mann was selected by NASA in June 2013. The California native holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering with a specialty in Fluid Mechanics. Mann is a Naval Aviator and a test pilot in the F/A-18 Hornet. She has been stationed in many location throughout the world and has deployed aboard the aircraft carrier in support of combat operations. Mann is now qualified for a future space flight assignment and is working in the Safety and Training branch of the Astronaut Office.

### Personal Data:

Born in Petaluma, California. Married to Travis Mann of Atlanta, Georgia. They have one child. Mann's parents live in Penngrove, California.

### Education:

Graduated from Rancho Cotate High School, Rohnert Park, California, in 1995. Earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, in 1999. Earned a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering with a specialty in Fluid Mechanics from Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, in 2001.

### Experience:

Mann was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in 1999. Following graduate school, she completed The Basic School (TBS) in Quantico, Virginia and reported to Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Florida, for flight training in 2001. She earned her wings of gold as a Naval Aviator in 2003 and reported to VFA-106 for training in the F/A-18C. She began her operational flying career in 2004 with the Thunderbolts of VMFA-251 based from Beaufort, South Carolina. During this assignment, she deployed twice with CVW-1 aboard the USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65) and flew combat missions in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Upon return from her second deployment, Mann reported to the United States Naval Test Pilot School, Class 135, at NAS Patuxent River, Maryland. In June 2009, she reported to Air Test and Evaluation Squadron TWO THREE (VX-23) as an F/A-18 Test Pilot/Project Officer. While at VX-23, Mann executed a variety of flight test, including loads envelope expansion, flying qualities, carrier suitability and ordnance separation in the F/A-18A-F. In the spring of 2011, Mann assumed duties as the VX-23 Operations Officer. In July 2012, Major Mann was assigned to PMA-281 as the Joint Mission Planning System - Expeditionary (JMPS-E) Integrated Product Team (IPT) Lead and JMPS Fleet Liaison Officer when selected as an astronaut candidate. She has accumulated more than 2,000 flight hours in 22 types of aircraft, 200 carrier arrestments and 47 combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

### NASA Experience:

Mann was selected in June 2013 as one of eight members of the 21st NASA astronaut class. Her Astronaut Candidate Training included scientific and technical briefings, intensive instruction in International Space Station systems,

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Spacewalks, robotics, physiological training, T-38 flight training, and water and wilderness survival training. She completed Astronaut Candidate training in July 2015, and is now qualified for future assignment.

### **Awards/Honors:**

Awarded two Air Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals and various unit commendations. Trident Scholar, Academic All-American (soccer), Distinguished Graduate - U.S. Naval Academy, Honor Graduate - U.S. Naval Test Pilot School Class 135, Leroy Grumman "Best Paper" Award - East Coast Society of Experimental Test Pilots Symposium, and NASA 2015 Stephen D. Thorne Safety Award.

### **Organizations:**

Society of Experimental Test Pilots, Tailhook Association, U.S. Naval Test Pilot School Alumni Association, United States Naval Academy Alumni Association.