ASTRONAUT BIOGRAPHY

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
Houston, Texas 77058

March 2016

Christina H. Koch

NASA Astronaut

Summary:
Christina H. Hammock Koch was selected as an astronaut by NASA in 2013. She completed astronaut candidate training in July 2015, and is currently assigned to the International Space Station Crew Operations Branch. In this position, she is involved in crew conferences and IT-related issues onboard the station. Koch, a native of Michigan, graduated from North Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and Physics and a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering.

Personal Data:
Although born in Michigan, Koch considers her hometown to be Jacksonville, North Carolina and most recently resided in Livingston, Montana. She is married to Robert Koch. Her parents are Barbara Johnsen of Frederick, Maryland and Dr. Ronald Hammock of Jacksonville, North Carolina. Koch enjoys backpacking, rock climbing, paddling, sailing, running, yoga, community service, photography and travel.

Education:
Graduated from the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham, North Carolina (1997). She attended North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (2001), a Bachelor of Science in Physics and a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering (2002).

Experience:
Koch has experience both in space science instrument development and remote scientific field engineering. She worked as an Electrical Engineer at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Laboratory for High Energy Astrophysics, where she contributed to scientific instruments on several NASA missions studying cosmology and astrophysics. During this time, she also served as Adjunct Faculty at Montgomery College where she led a Physics Laboratory course. Koch moved on to become a Research Associate in the United States Antarctic Program from 2004 to 2007. She completed a winter-over season at the Admunsen-Scott South Pole Station and a season at Palmer Station. While in Antarctica, she was a member of the Firefighting Teams and Ocean/Glacier Search and Rescue Teams. From 2007 to 2009, Koch returned to space science instrument development as an Electrical Engineer at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory's Space Department. She contributed to instruments studying radiation particles for NASA missions, including Juno and the Van Allen Probes. During this time, she volunteered as a tutor at Anne Arundel Community College in various science and mathematics subjects. In 2010, Koch returned to remote scientific field work with tours including Palmer Station in Antarctica and multiple winter seasons at Summit Station in Greenland. In 2012, Koch continued work at remote scientific bases, now with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). She served as a Field Engineer at NOAA's Global Monitoring Division Baseline Observatory in Barrow Alaska, and then as Station Chief of the American Samoa Observatory. During this time, she participated in many opportunities for educational outreach to share the scientific work being done at these remote stations.

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NASA Experience:
Koch graduated from the NASA Academy program at Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) in 2001. She worked as an Electrical Engineer in the Laboratory for High Energy Astrophysics at GSFC from 2002 to 2004. Koch 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, 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:
NASA Group Achievement Award, NASA Juno Mission Jupiter Energetic Particle Detector Instrument, 2012; Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, Invention of the Year nominee, 2009; United States Congress Antarctic Service Medal with Winter-Over distinction, 2005; NASA Group Achievement Award, NASA Suzaku Mission X-ray Spectrometer Instrument, 2005; Astronaut Scholar, Astronaut Scholarship Foundation, 2000 to 2001.