



Female US Army helicopter pilots crash three times less often than male pilots.

HELICOPTER PILOT

July 1, 2017

Kanna and José were talking about her life history and about how she wanted to fly helicopters in Africa to help protect wildlife.

Kanna Kai Jones: So um I didn't go to um Africa. But I I I flew in in Los Angeles and I did the charter.

José Cruz: So you never gave up your dream. You you you couldn't find a way to get into the whole African situation, because of this sexist (Mm) guy (Ha ha) But you held onto your dream, and and pursued it in America anyway,

Kanna: Yeah. Mm-hm. (Wow) **And uh.** And then I flew for the movies and charters and then all kinds of stuff (Wow) and in the meanwhile, I really wanted to fly for the-for the **natures** and um the- the animals (Sure sure) So I I picked the last job I did was flying over the water- um the- commuting from (Oh wow) the mainland to the island. (Of?) Going back and forth. (What island?) Ah Catali- Catalina Island.

José: Ah Catalina Island.

Kanna: The south of um, Los Angeles.

José: Sure I didn't know. (It it) I thought this was (It it) maybe Hawaii now suddenly. Yeah go on.

Kanna: Yeah I- I. **Because** I flew in Hawaii for a year.

José: Oh god! OK I was just guessing. OK. OK OK.

Kanna: Ha ha. So it was it was so you know, it was natural for me to get that job in Los Angeles. And then I flew over the whales and dolphins and then I saw some eagles flying and all that. You know, natures. Um I- I loved it. For- I've done it for seven years or so.

José: When did you last. When- When did you- or- Uh you're not a pilot now?

Kanna: I- I quit. Yes. I-

José: When did you last fly?

Kanna: That was 2008.

José: Oh wow. So let's see. You flew for basically for what about 30 years, 20 years? (20 years) Wow that's so cool. **No,** I've just- I've always had- Like every time I see a helicopter I keep thinking- Because I know generally, the cycl- the the technical part of the cyclic- and the pedals and stuff like that- and I- I keep telling myself that is a tough job. Landing (Ha ha) a- a helicopter that's **got to** be the hardest part, right?

Kanna: Landing yeah- hovering and landing.

José: Hovering is tough too?

Kanna: Yeah hovering is tough in the beginning. And once you get used to it. Just like you know the the bicycle. Riding (Uh I guess) a bicycle.

José: I think a bicycle is easier Ha ha.

Kanna: Well similar- once your body remembers.

José: Yeah sure. or uh, probably not a really good comparison. But like, now, that's an automatic uh transmission I have in my car, But I- I remember how hard it was trying to drive **stick**, (Mm-hmm) and at a certain point after a couple of months, it was- my hand was doing things (Right right) that I didn't even know it was doing, (Exactly yeah) I didn't know hovering was hard, but I guess so, **eh?** Because you've got to really feel the wind. If it shifts in a certain direction

you've got to compensate back in the other way and...

Kanna: Yeah especially when you do some kind of photo shoot or something you really have to be steady.

José: Oh you did that stuff too? (Yeah) Wow! that's so cool!

Kanna: Yeah the commercials. TV commercials, and all that stuff.

[word count: 552]

Pointers:

and uh: Kanna uses the filler words "uh" and "um" very naturally (0:23)

natures: Kanna mistakenly says this uncountable noun with a plural "s" (0:32)

because: pronounced, "**KUHZ**" (0:53)

No: beginning the sentence with a "No" acknowledges that José's surprised reaction (1:35)

got to: pronounced, "**GOTTA**" (1:54)

stick: a slang term meaning "manual transmission" (2:22)

eh?: José's Canadian accent emerges here when he ends the sentence with "eh?" (2:33)

Discussion:

Have you ever ridden in a helicopter?

Do you want to make your dreams part of your career?

What jobs do you think women do better than men?

TIME ARTICLE: "ARMY WOMEN: BETTER CHOPPER PILOTS THAN THE GUYS?"
<http://time.com/8404/army-women-helicopter-pilots/>

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