# Preflight Interview: Michael Lopez-Alegria

*The STS-92 Crew Interviews with Michael Lopez-Alegria, Mission Specialist*

*Q: We are talking with Michael Lopez-Alegria, Mission Specialist on STS-92. And first off, why did you want to be an astronaut? Was there any particular event or person who inspired you?*

A. I think, well, when I was a kid I mean, a young kid I wanted to be an astronaut probably like a lot of young kids. But I changed my mind many times. I mean, I was, I was interested in, I was, I was, I was, about 4 again when I was 25. I was reading an article in a magazine about Naval Test Pilot School, which is something I had just become interested in. And there was a section that talked about graduates from that school who had gone on to become astronauts. And I think that's kind of what gave me the idea that, "Hey, maybe I could do that" again.

*Great. Now, give me an overview of your education and career. What got you to this point?*

Pretty standard for, you know, a Naval astronaut. I went to the Naval Academy, engineering degree. Pilot training. Test Pilot School after getting a graduate degree. And a couple of years as a test pilot, and then I got picked up to come here. A little bit unusual in that, within that sort of typical Navy model, I was not in a tactical jet squadron. I was in a heavy propeller reconnaissance squadron. So, there aren't very many astronauts that, that, that come from that, that, that,