

# Astronaut quits halfway through training, 1st in 50 years

August 28 2018, by Marcia Dunn

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This June 6, 2017 photo shows NASA astronaut candidate Robb Kulin at Ellington Field in Houston. Kulin has resigned halfway through his two years of training at Johnson Space Center in Houston. A NASA spokeswoman says his departure is effective Friday, Aug. 31, 2018, and that he is leaving for personal reasons that the space agency cannot discuss due to privacy laws. (Robert Markowitz/NASA via AP)

For the first time in 50 years, an astronaut-in-training is quitting NASA.

Astronaut candidate Robb Kulin has resigned halfway through his two years of training at Johnson Space Center in Houston. NASA spokeswoman Brandi Dean said his departure is effective Friday and that he is leaving for personal reasons that the [space agency](#) cannot discuss due to [privacy laws](#).

Kulin was among 12 new astronauts chosen last summer from a record 18,300 applicants. Kulin, 34, was working as a [senior manager](#) at SpaceX when selected and said at the time he was hoping to fly on a vehicle he helped design. SpaceX and Boeing are developing NASA's first commercial crew capsules, due to launch within the next year.

He grew up in Anchorage, Alaska, and worked as a commercial fisherman in Alaska and an ice driller in Antarctica.

The last time astronauts-in-training resigned from NASA was in 1968.

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Citation: Astronaut quits halfway through training, 1st in 50 years (2018, August 28) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2018-08-astronaut-halfway-1st-years.html>

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