As they got close to the Moon, Artemis II astronauts were eager to land



Koch said one thing she and her fellow astronauts learned was that they were well-trained to handle whatever issues arose.

“This mission taught me that the unknown is way scarier than the known,” she said. “Every single time we accomplished a mission test objective, we all looked at each other and were like, ‘ That actually went pretty well.’ That was actually not necessarily easy, because it took a ton of work, but it was easy to accomplish as a team because we had put in the work.”

Landing on the Moon is “absolutely doable”

Another crew member, Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen, said that as NASA takes further steps into deep space, including setting up a lunar base, astronauts and the teams supporting

them on the ground must be ready for a potentially bumpy ride. And, he said, astronauts have to be willing to embrace that risk.

“We have to be willing to accept a little more risk than we were willing to accept in the past, and to just trust that we will figure it out in real time,” he said. “We’re not going to be able to pound everything flat before we go; we’re going to have to trust each other. It was very evident to us out there that this one went really smoothly. I’m not surprised—extraordinary team. But it was also very clear to us that it could get real bumpy, real fast.”

The mission’s commander, Reid Wiseman, said he had a technical epiphany 250,000 miles from Earth. He felt a strong urge to land on the Moon, and if they’d had a lander, they would have eagerly done it. The Moon, he said, was right there for the taking.

“It’s not—oh, I’m gonna eat these words—it’s not the leap I thought it was,” Wiseman said. “If you had given us the keys to the lander, we would have taken it down and landed on the Moon. It’s going to be extremely technically challenging, but this team needs to show up every day knowing it is absolutely doable, and it’s doable soon.”

https://arstechnica.com/space/2026/04/artemis-ii-astronauts-say-landing-on-the-moon-is-absolutely-doable-soon/