

The Big Story: a testimony from Carol Rabadi, the second Jordanian female airline captain

"I would say my main reason for success is that I love what I do for a living. I had a dream, it was a strange dream for most girls around me, but I had fallen in love with aviation. I believe if you love what you do, you will be brilliant at it. Love drives you to work harder and to excel; love is the catalyst to achieve what others may see as an impossible feat.

Don't be afraid to dream big, and don't be intimidated to dream of a different life. When you are committed to a goal you will work through all obstacles with such ease that will even surprise the people around you. I fell in love with aviation at the age of 14. At a young age I recognized the need for a university education. After I finished High school, I applied to Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida and after 4 years I graduated with a Bsc in aeronautical Science. Now at 33 years of age, I have flown aircrafts that carry up to 260 passengers, I have flown to destinations as close as Beirut and as far as Chicago and Bangkok. Now I'm a Captain on a jet aircraft that carries 100 passengers. I have captained the first all Arab woman crew, on a Royal Jordanian flight to Athens on the 22th Oct 2010 and have captained many all women crewed flights since.



Captain Rabadi Left and Captain Khamas right

Being a Female Captain hasn't been easy. There are many challenges involved. A Female leader isn't easily accepted in our part of the world, but with education, experience and a good knowledge of our beautiful Arab culture, becoming a Female leader in our culture will become easier with time. You will see that most recognize the struggle and hard work you have put in and they will appreciate it, and you will find people around you will lift you up and support you more than ever.

Believing in yourself is key, support of family is important, using education and perseverance to achieve reachable goals is vital. Take one step at a time, face one obstacle at a time and you will make your dream come true".