F-35 Simulators Take To The Skies With Six F/A-18s In Joint Training First



LEMOORE, Calif., Nov. 17, 2026 — Four F-35 full mission simulators at Naval Air Station Lemoore successfully demonstrated real-time connectivity with six F/A-18 aircraft using U.S. Navy continuous training environment and Link-Inject-to-Live ground station systems.

WHY IT MATTERS

Connecting F/A-18s in the air with F-35 full-mission simulators on the ground, brings live and simulated forces together for more realistic mission rehearsal, expanding training and mission rehearsal capabilities.

Pilots can train against virtual adversaries alongside live and simulated aircraft, creating an enhanced and 'true-to-life' mission environment.

Together, simulators and live aircraft create a more complete training experience, from repeatable mission scenarios in the simulator to the physical demands of high-G flight.

STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVES

"When we connect live aircraft, high-fidelity simulators and virtual adversaries, we can build more realistic scenarios, test decision-making under pressure and get pilots better prepared for the moment it matters." said Ken Garrett, vice president of F-35 Training and Logistics.

For additional information, visit F-35 Lightning II training page.

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