

Excerpt of the radio interview played in the website where Rear Admiral de Florez explains the benefits of the synthetic training:

**“Our flying and fighting equipment is the most powerful and effective the world has ever known. But make no mistake, this product of American genius and industry is no child's play to operate.**

**Yet this complex equipment is a necessity entrusted to the average youngster barely out of high school, to the kid next door whose folks hesitated to let him drive the family automobile.**

**We are thankful that synthetic training is doing its share in giving our Navy pilots and air crews the thorough realistic training they need to destroy a dangerous and competent enemy”.**

### **Complete December 1944 radio broadcast of "The March of Time"**

The father of military modeling and simulation, Capt. Luis de Florez talks about the benefits of synthetic training in 1944. This broadcast was aired the week before he was presented the 1943 Collier Trophy "for his contribution to the safe and rapid training of combat pilots and crews." De Florez retired from the Navy as a Rear Admiral.

Transcript:

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Instructor: We're down to 500 feet. What are you going to do?

Pilot "Joe": Well there's nothing left to do. Stand by for crash landing.

<< dramatic music >>

Narrator: But the big bomber and the restless crew did not crash into the Pacific. Instead just a few minutes later the same officer who briefed the crew remarked...

Instructor: Well it's too bad you lost control of the plane Joe.

Pilot "Joe": Yeah I know. It seems we forgot one important point -- to knock out the number two engine.

Instructor: You told your plane Captain to cut off the gas flow alright. But you didn't tell him to switch the instrument vacuum pump to the number one engine.

Pilot "Joe": Oh!

Instructor: Got it now?

Pilot "Joe": Yes sir, won't make that mistake again.

Narrator: That is how Joe and thousands of other Navy airmen like him can make fatal mistakes and live, for Joe and his crew are not really flying over the Pacific; they were sitting in a cabin on the ground, exactly duplicating the airplane they will later fly on real bombing missions while their instructor was reproducing all kinds of flight conditions.

This marvelous device was created by the Special Devices Division of the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics, headed by Captain Luis de Florez.

This coming Sunday the National Aeronautic Association <recording skips> (will present him with the 1943 Collier Trophy). It will be presented by Vice President Henry A. Wallace, and with it a citation reading, "For his contributions to the safe and rapid training of combat pilots and crew."

Captain de Florez is now at the March of Time's Washington microphone. Come in Washington, go ahead Captain de Florez.

Capt. de Florez: No one learns anything without making mistakes. Air combat is not exception, but their mistakes are fatal. If you make a mistake in combat, you may not live to correct it.

The Naval Aviation Training students are taught their fighting jobs in synthetic training devices, where they have a chance to experience the conditions of battle before they are exposed to its hazards.

They can be given a dress rehearsal and have the opportunity to make mistakes where they cost the least.

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And what is close to all our hearts. We are thankful that it helps them to come back safe.