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Hello my name is Jim Less, call sign "CLUE", I am a Research Pilot, here at Armstrong Flight Research Center

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00:00:18,000 --> 00:00:21,000

One of the more interesting projects I've worked on here at Armstrong is the LVAC project

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That stands for Launch Vehicle Adaptive Control.

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It is a project where we used a F-18 to simulate a rocket.

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We were able to get a lot of data simulating dozens of actual launches, we were able to simulate failure conditions

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The flight profiles that we flew, attempted to simulate a rocket taking off from a launch pad and making it's turn

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In order to do that, I would pull the nose of the F-18 up to approximately 30degrees, nose high and then fly, along

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Some of the maneuvers, I would actively try to follow a command, a steering command and fly the rocket myself

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Others, we let the auto-pilot try to do it and see, see how well it performed.

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The LVAC Project, is just a small piece, one of the stepping stones to getting us to Mars.

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It will get the next generation of launch vehicle or rocket off the ground.