

Release on Receipt

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Duluth --- Five Air Force ROTC seniors at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, have begun their pilot training in the Flight Instruction Program (FIP). William Klees of Hillside, Illinois; John Thorson, Charles Voxland, and Robert Weed, all of Duluth; and Allen Schneider of Park Rapids, Minnesota are now receiving the first phase of pilot training which can lead to the silver wings of an Air Force pilot.

The five pilot candidates constitute the largest number of trainees to be enrolled simultaneously in the flight training program in the history of the 420th ROTC Detachment at UMD. Each of the cadets will be given thirty-six and one-half hours of instruction including dual, solo, and flight check time.

The pilot trainees are training at Duluth Airways at Duluth International Airport. The Air Force appropriates funds for the training which is accomplished at civilian flying facilities.

Graduates of the Flight Instruction Program are sent to the Air Force pilot training schools after they are commissioned. At the schools the newly commissioned UMD grads will begin extensive full-time pilot training which is known as the "Fifty-three Week Year". The training will include not only flying in light aircraft but also the latest supersonic jets.