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DULUTH--Seven cadets from UMD's 420th Air Force ROTC detachment have soloed in the U.S.A.F.'s Flying Instruction Program, according to Captain Andrew W. Sherling, commandant of cadets.

Participating in the 36 $\frac{1}{2}$ hour program are John Banks, Douglas Tyacke, Andrew Peloquin, Bruce Couillard, Rodney Benson, Duluth; Kirk Ransom, Minneapolis; and Robert Koski, Marcell.

Once flying instruction is completed, a cadet may apply to take the Federal Aviation Agency's written examination and, if he passes, qualify for a private pilot's license.

Aside from actual flying time, all cadets receive 35 hours of ground school instruction. This covers weather, navigation and Civil Aeronautics Authority regulations. Lt. Col. Thomas Owen, assistant professor of air science at UMD, is FIP coordinator and ground school instructor.

The UMD cadets are among some 1,500 senior ROTC cadets engaged in FIP instruction throughout the nation this fall. These future flyers represent 160 colleges and universities and will have logged 50,000 hours before completing the program.

This is the sixth year the FIP program has been offered. Air Training Command, the command charged with pilot training programs, strongly endorses the instruction.

Air Training Command points out that FIP cadets have been twice as successful in completing regular air force pilot training as cadets who have not had similar advanced training.