

Eight ROTC Students Take Air-Training

"You get a dead feeling, then elation . . . you wonder if you can bring it down again," said Thomas M. Paczak, one of eight senior ROTC students at the University taking an Army pilot training course with the U.S. Air Force.

"The solo flight is the final hurdle," Paczak said. "No matter how well-prepared you are, no matter how much confidence you have on the ground, things are different up in the air.

"You stare at the dials: Altimeter, 2,000 feet; speed, 100 mph; fuel, full. Things seem to be going well then the radio crackles 'Up nose! Up nose! and you realize that the pilot's seat is no place to daydream.

"Then it's almost over, you're on your way down, wondering if you can make it. No matter how well you are doing, you sigh with relief when the wheels hit the ground.

"Then you can't wait to get back up again," Paczak concluded.

The Pilot Training Program is sponsored by the Reserve Officer Training Corps at Youngstown University. Eight seniors are being trained to fly at Southern Airways Airport by Nick Parrish, airport operator, under a contract with the Army.

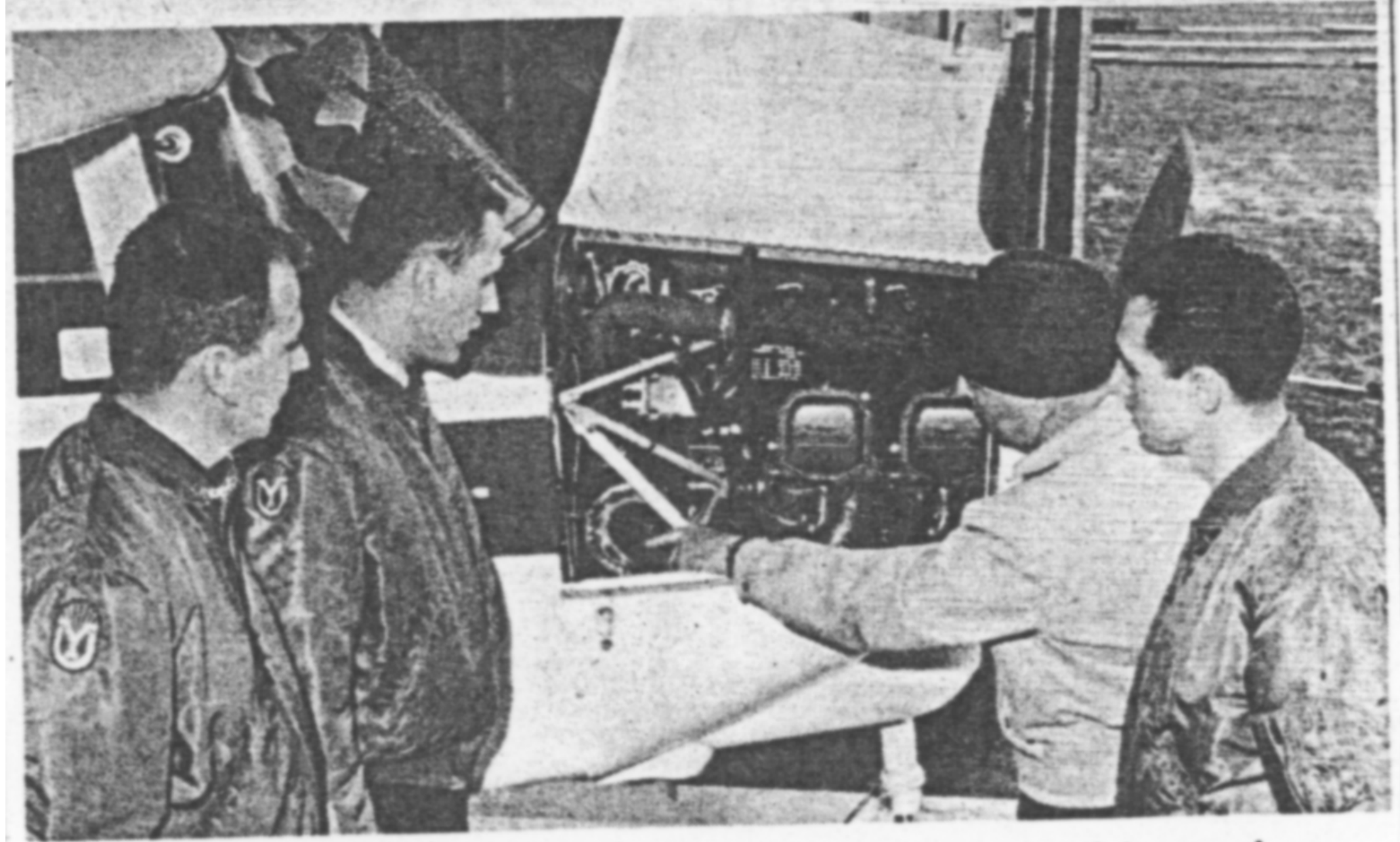
Parish, a captain in the U.S. Air Force, is attached to the 910th Troop Carrier Squadron at the Youngstown Municipal Airport. The flight training program is extra-curricular and does not modify the regular ROTC program.

Captain M. E. Hilton, assistant professor of military science and adviser for the aviation training program, said that the training began at YU this academic year, but will be continued and possibly expanded.

The students are given 36½ hours of flight instruction in two-seat Piper Colt planes by Parish, and 35 hours of ground instruction. This is sufficient to qualify them for civilian private pilot certificates. Students take flight training at various times, and receive their ground training every Monday from 7:30 to 10 p.m.

The program is designed to encourage ROTC cadets to pursue careers in Army aviation. It is hoped that this will facilitate the creation of a reserve pool of qualified pilots to be used in any national emergency, and also serves as a career incentive in the regular army.

The eight seniors taking the program are Dennis J. Gartland, Glenn R. Massaro, Grant W. Farmer, Gerald R. Lucas, Thomas M. Paczak, Gregory N. Patulea, David G. Scott and John E. Whitten.



INSTRUCTOR NICK PARRISH (third from left) explains engine mechanism of a piper colt primary trainer to members of the ROTC Flight Program. Students are (l to r) Glenn Messao, John Lucas, Parrish and David Scott.