

## To fly for Uncle Sam

Even if you're going to fly large, expensive jet fighters for the United States Air Force someday, you have to start small.

Students planning to enter the Air Force as pilots begin by participating in the Flight Instruction Program. At Texas A&M this means learning to fly single-engine Cessna 152s at Easterwood Airport.

Tim Donohue, a Texas A&M senior, was one of five members of the Corps of Cadets participating in the program this semester. F.I.P. began on Jan. 9 with two and a half days of ground school where the cadets learned the basic mechanics of flight and how weather affects flying.

After that Donohue and the others began flying with an instructor three times a week, weather permitting. Before actually going up in the plane each time, the pilot trainees had a short briefing with their instructor followed by a thorough pre-flight inspection of the plane.

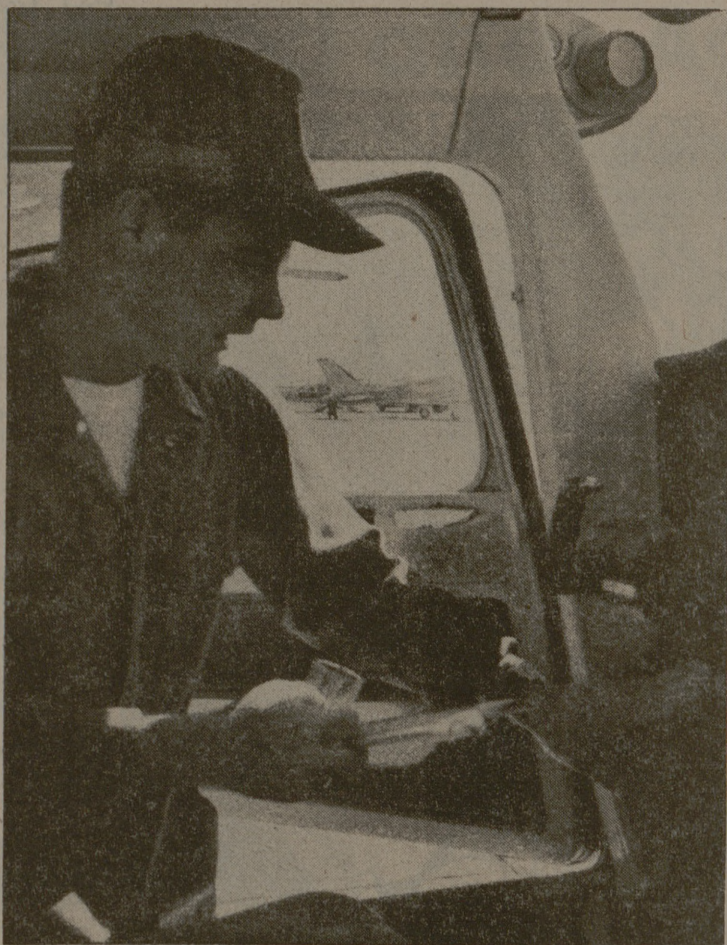
The program ended for Donohue on Feb. 25 with a successful one-hour "check ride" with a Federal Aviation Administration instructor. In all, Donohue totaled 13 hours of flight time.

That is enough to earn him a student pilot license, which means he can fly solo, but can carry no passengers. With about 40 hours, Donohue could get a private license, but the Air Force, which paid for his F.I.P. instruction, has different plans for him.

After graduation, he will be commissioned into the Air Force for seven years of active duty service. Donohue's first assignment will be to enter the Undergraduate Pilot Training program and learn to fly jets.

After completing U.P.T., Donohue will be assigned to the particular type of airplane he will fly professionally. At present Donohue hopes to fly fighters.

Photos and copy by  
**RONNIE CROCKER**

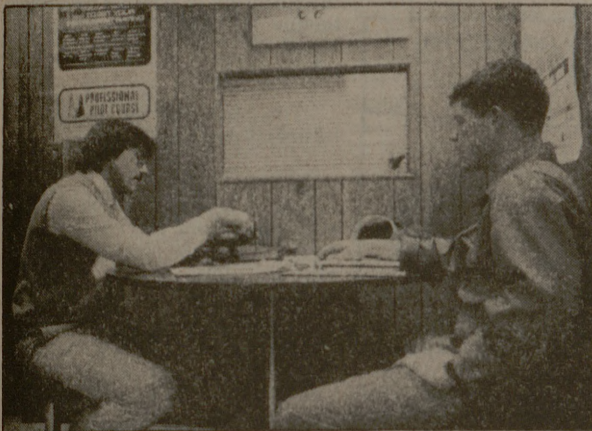


Next is a thorough pre-flight inspection of the plane.



Donohue buckles in.

Below, F.I.P. student Tim Donohue and his instructor John Beard discuss their upcoming training flight. At bottom of page, Donohue and Beard taxi down the runway before takeoff.



What group will be performing on the Johnny Carson Show March 12 and in Rudder Auditorium March 19?

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