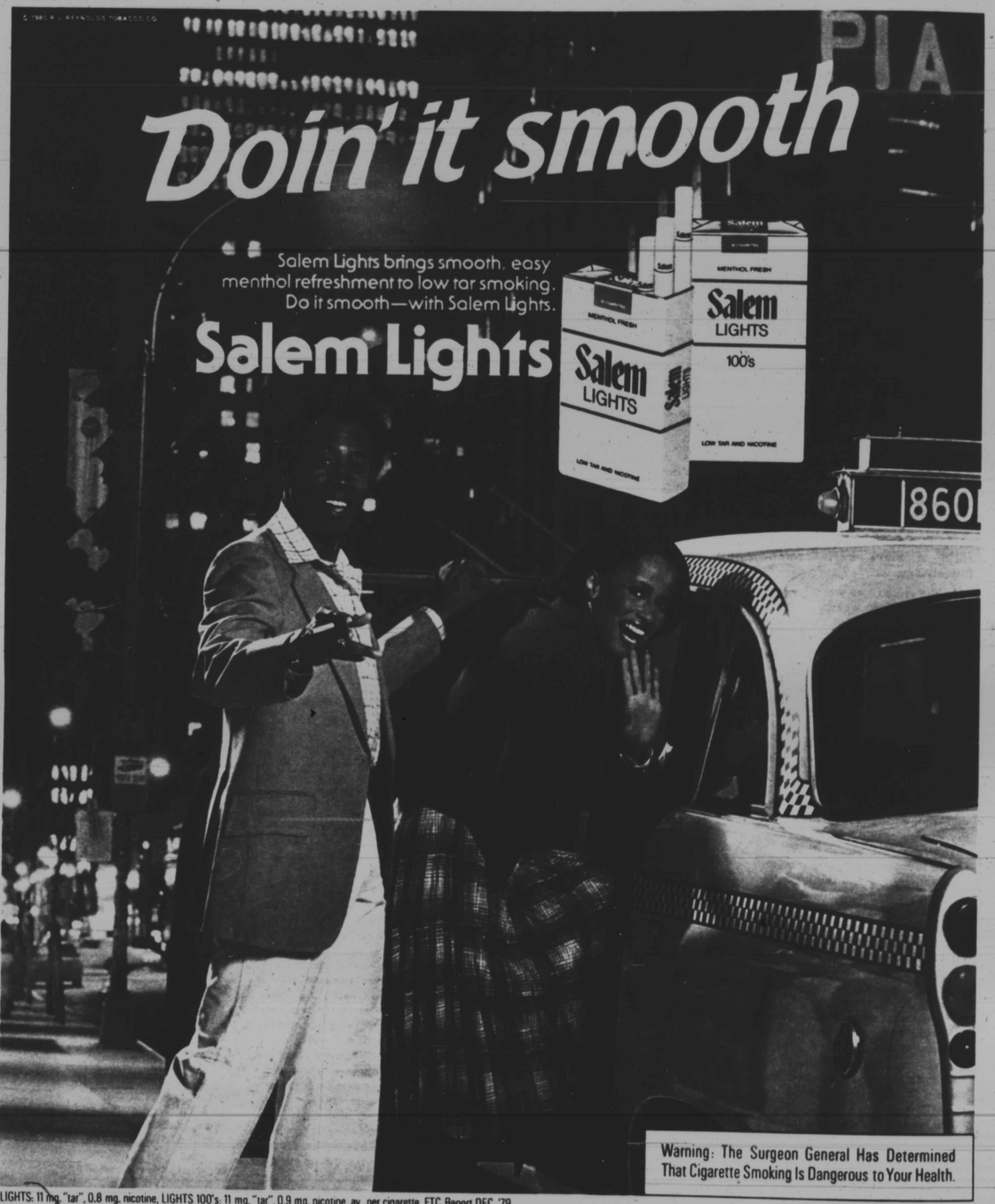


2nd Lt. Christine B. Knighton is an army aviator, assigned to helicopters. From Cuthbert, ala., she is the second woman to become an army pilot.

OLD VETS WON'T RECOGNIZE:

The New U.S. Army

In the pre-world War II army, privates were paid $50 a day— once a month. That was it, Today, not only are military personnel enormously better paid, they are acquiring job skills to equip them for better civilian occupations.

For more reasons than the increased concern with national security, Americans have been looking with interest at some changes going on within one of their largest institutions — the army.

TV and magazines have examined the impact of new roles being assumed in the military by men and women of various ethnic and racial backgrounds in areas such as aviation and other high-technology fields.

There have been articles and reports on new items of military equipment, such as the turbine-powered XM-1 Abrams tank and the Black Hawk helicopter, which look like they could take on some of the bad guys in *The Empire Strikes Back*.

And there have been discussions about the army as an all-volunteer organization which have left many questions unanswered, questions which deal with the quality of life offered by the army.

Dawn Magazine asked the army and its recruiting program directors, "What's going on that we ought to be hearing about?" Here are some answers to that question.

The army of the 1980s is showing up in the job marketplace with items of high technology that reach beyond the basics of army life, from the backpack satellite communications gear (still in experimental stages) available to the infantry soldier and the thermal imaging sight on the XM-1 Abrams tank (now in use) to the highly sophisticated electronic navigational gear used by army aviators, who, by the way, have more aircraft than the Air Force.

An impressive list of skill training, educational, and "unit of choice" options, some of which are available *only* in the army, have caused many young gamericans to see the army as the best place to develop their abilities and get a new perspective.

For some, the opportunities looked at below cannot be discovered any place else. The cost of training alone in fields such as communications, general engineering construction, aviation maintenance, automatic data processing, medical, and food service can make careers in these areas an impossible dream — except in the military.

To the high school senior who isn't hot on making a long-range commitment to industry or the military, the Army — only the Army can offer a two-year enlistment, and a wide choice of skill training. The choice gets even wider with three- or four-year enlistments.

The young man or woman who has recently enlisted in the army will say it's a very different lifestyle from civilian life. It's not 8- to 5. There are regulations, orders, and details. There are drills, exercises, and bivouacs.

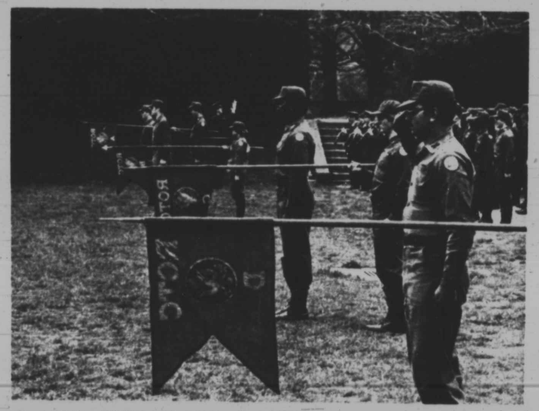
And there's always someone at your first training post to tell you that no matter what your specialty might be, everybody's mission is the same on the bottom line; defense of the nation.

Recruiters and recent enlistees will also tell you there are other things which seem, all together, to give the army an edge over the competition:

GUARANTEE OF SKILL TRAINING: Skill training choices are guaranteed in writing by the army. From the two-year enlistment through the four-year hitch, the range of choices gets increasingly wider with the length of commitment the new volunteer is willing to make.

GETTING READY FOR COLLEGE: The Veterans Educational Assistance Program provides a means for qualified young men and women to accumulate at least $9,200 for college during a two-year enlistment, $12,100 for three years, and $14,100 for four years, and up to as much as $24,000 when combined with enlistment bonuses for critical skills in some parts of the country.

(Continued on Page 12)



Part of the ROTC cadet brigade at William & Mary College present arms for the national anthem. Successful graduates may qualify for commissions in the active army.

Pvt. Kenneth M. Simpson, aircraft engine repairman, pauses in front of a turbine engine training aid at Ft. Sam Houston. He will become expert on turbines.