BEECH AIRCRAFT 'SNB EXPEDITER'

NAAS Kingsville 1953-1954

The Beech C-45 "Expediter" was a twin-engine light transport used by the Air Force during the Korean War. The Beechcraft Model 18 first flew in January 1937. The US Army Air Force adopted it in 1940 with the designation C-45. The Navy and Marine Corps also acquired several hundred with the designations JRB-1/4. The Expediter was used worldwide for light transport during World War II.

The AT-7 Navigator and AT-11 "Kansan," the designations of the training versions of the Expediter, were the USAAF's standard trainers for navigators and bombardiers, respectively, during World War I. They were also used extensively for USN and USMC training with the designations SNB-1/3. A few ambulance and photographic reconnaissance versions were also produced.

The C-45/SNB had two 450-hp engines giving it a maximum speed of 215 mph. It had a two-man crew and could carry six to eight passengers. About 9,100 of all versions were built, over 5,000 of which were trainers.

The SNB was only used for two years at NAS Kingsville, 1953-1954, for all -weather training. The SNB was phased out in favor of the T-28B Trojan, a twin propeller-driven trainer.

Using the T-28B accomplished a two-fold purpose not possible with the SNB: first, it provided instrument training vital to future jet pilots, and second, an intermediate step in acquainting the pilots with tri-cycle landing gear and cockpit arrangement similar to jet aircraft.

SPECIFICATIONS

Wing Span: 47 ft. 8 in.
Length: SNB-1: 34 ft. 2 in.
SNB 2/3: 34 ft. 3 in.
Height: 9 ft. 9 in.
Wing Area: 349 square feet
Gross Weight
SNB-1: 8,195 lbs.
SNB-2: 7,835 lbs.
SNB-3: 8,060 lbs.
Maximum Speed
SNB-1: 215 mph SNB-2/3: 224 mph
Service Ceiling: SNB-1: 20,000 ft.
SNB-2: 24,000 ft.
Maximum Range: 870 miles

SNB-2s *National Archieves via Mel Shettle*