GRUMMAN TBM "AVENGER"

NAAS KINGSVILLE 1952-1955

The TBM Avenger was one of the Navy's most famous aircraft of World War II. Originally designed as a carrier-based torpedo bomber by Grumman Aircraft, the Avenger found use as a close-support bomber, patrol aircraft, and even a trainer and COD aircraft in post-war use. It was known as a the largest single-engine, carrier-based aircraft of World War II.

The Grumman TBF Avenger (designated TBM for aircraft manufactured by General Motors) was a torpedo bomber developed initially for the Navy and Marine Corps, and eventually used by several air or naval arms around the world. It entered Naval service in 1942, and first saw action during the Battle of Midway.

Grumman's first torpedo bomber was the heaviest single-engine aircraft of World War II, and only the USAAF's P-47 Thunderbolt came close to it in maximum loaded weight among all single-engined fighters, only being some 400 lbs. lighter than the TBF. The Avenger was the first design to feature a new wing-folding mechanism created by Grumman, intended to maximize storage space on an aircraft carrier.

The Wright R-2600-20 engine produced 1,900 horsepower, and the Avenger carried three crew members: pilot, turret gunner and radioman/bombardier/ventral gunner.

One .30 caliber machine gun was mounted in the nose, a .50 caliber (12.7 mm) gun was mounted right next to the turret gunner's head in a rear-facing electrically powered turret, and a single .30 caliber hand-fired machine gun mounted ventrally (under the tail).

At NAS Kingsville, the TBM Avenger was used for antisubmarine training at ATU-400 out of South Field.

Specifications:

Length: 40 ft., 11 ⊠ in.; Height: 16 ft., 5 in.;
Wingspan: 54 ft., 2 in.
Weights: Empty: 10,545 lb.; Gross: 17,895 lb.
Power Plant: One 1,900 horsepower Wright R-2600-20 engine

Performance:

Max Speed: 276 m.p.h. at 16,500 ft.;
Service Ceiling: 30,100 ft.; Range: 1,010 miles